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Agenda item 30

ZONE OF PEACE AND COOPERATION OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

Letter dated 30 September 1994 by the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the documents adopted by the third meeting of States members of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, held in Brasilia on 21 and 22 September 1994, in their English (original), French and Spanish versions.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 30.

(Signed) Ronaldo Mota SARDENBERG
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Brazil
to the United Nations

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ANNEX I

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Final Declaration adopted at the third meeting of States members of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic

The representatives of the States members of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic (ZPCSA), meeting in Brasilia, on 21 and 22 September 1994,

1. Warmly welcome the holding of the first democratic elections and the establishment of a new Government in the Republic of South Africa, events which favour the creation of renewed conditions of coexistence and cooperation in the South Atlantic region, and are of great importance for the consolidation of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic;

2. Warmly welcome South Africa into membership of the zone;

3. Recall the conclusions of the second high-level meeting, which took place in Abuja, Nigeria, from 25 to 29 July 1990, and stress the need to hold such meetings in member States on a regular basis, as from 1994;

4. Congratulate the Government of Nigeria for its valuable work as Coordinator of the zone since the Abuja meeting;

5. Welcome the offer made by the Government of Namibia to host a meeting of Ministers of Trade and Industry of the zone in early 1995;

6. Congratulate the Governments of Namibia and South Africa for the peaceful resolution of the Walvis Bay and offshore islands dispute, in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 432 (1978) of 27 July 1978;

7. Examine the evolution of the international situation since the last meeting of the States of the zone and conclude that the end of the cold war has created favourable conditions for greater understanding and cooperation within the zone;

8. Reaffirm the validity of the zone as a relevant instrument for cooperation among South Atlantic countries, as well as the capacity of this forum to contribute to international peace and security; and agree on the need to increase efforts with a view to reinforcing its role as a regional instrument of cooperation;

9. Agree that the cooperation among the countries of the zone must be viewed as a whole, in order to build a solid basis for increased cooperation in all areas with potential for joint action, especially the economic, technological, environmental, cultural and sporting fields;

10. Agree also that the zone is a suitable forum for promoting cooperation based on the respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and other relevant principles of international law, and the right of all peoples to freely determine their economic and political systems;

11. Agree to encourage democracy and political pluralism and, in accordance with the 1993 Vienna Declaration on Human Rights, a/ to promote and defend human rights and fundamental freedoms; also agree to cooperate towards the achievement of these goals;

12. Emphasize the importance of achieving the goals of the 1964 Declaration of the Organization of African Unity on the Denuclearization of Africa, b/ and of the 1967 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, c/ known as the Treaty of Tlatelolco, as well as those of its Protocols and I and II;

13. Express their determination to eliminate all weapons of mass destruction from the zone and reiterate their conviction that the implementation and deepening of appropriate confidence-building measures among the member States of the zone will contribute to achieving the objectives of peace and cooperation of the zone;

14. Reaffirm the importance of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace-keeping, and peace-building as suitable means for the maintenance of international and regional peace and security, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, entitled "An agenda for peace", d/ and resolutions 47/120 A of 18 December 1992 and 47/120 B of 20 September 1993;

15. Confirm their support for the efforts of the Angolan Government to attain peace, and express their hope for a speedy, satisfactory conclusion to the Lusaka negotiations, reiterating their conviction that the spirit and terms of the Bicesse Agreements e/ should be adhered to; call for the respect of the results achieved in the free and fair elections held in 1992; congratulate the Secretary-General's Representatives for their invaluable mediation efforts, expressing their hope that the positive developments in the negotiations may finally lead to a definitive solution to the conflict in Angola, so as to ensure the consolidation of peace and democracy, as well as the reconstruction of that country;

16. Note that, despite the considerable efforts of the Economic Community of West African States in collaboration with the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations, it has not as yet been possible to restore peace in Liberia; accordingly, urge the parties to the conflict in Liberia to observe the terms of the Cotonou Agreement, f/ as demanded by the summit meeting of the Economic Community of West African States, held on 5 and 6 August 1994 in Abuja, Nigeria; and encourage the international community to maintain and increase financial support, so as to enable the troops of the Economic Community of West African States Military Observer Group and of the Organization of African Unity to carry out their mandates in restoring peace in Liberia;

17. Stress the importance, to the zone, of the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro from

3 to 14 July 1992, highlighting, as a remarkable result, the adoption of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development g/ and Agenda 21 h/ and, in the same context, recognize the importance in conceptual terms, and as a programme, of the conventions on climate change i/ and on biological diversity, j/ and the Convention to combat desertification k/ in the belief that the full implementation of these instruments will reinforce the basis of coexistence and cooperation among the countries of the zone;

18. Underline the need for the States of the zone to increase their cooperation in the environmental field, particularly as regards coastal management and the transport and disposal of toxic waste and other pollutants in the South Atlantic; and, in this regard, reaffirm the importance of the Basel l/ and Bamako m/ Conventions;

19. Welcome and endorse the Declaration on the Marine Environment in the zone, which is based on the relevant provisions of Agenda 21, n/ particularly chapter 17, and is in conformity with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; n/

20. Re-examine the international economic environment and affirm the increasing importance of greater cooperation in economic and financial matters; agree, in this connection, that coordinating their efforts in various forums would significantly contribute to achieving the aims of the zone; in particular, take note, with satisfaction, of United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/181 of 22 December 1992; affirm the relevance of the preparation, on the threshold of the twenty-first century, of "An agenda for development" and recommend that States Members of the United Nations give full support to the United Nations Secretary-General in his task of preparing that document;

21. Call for the abolition of unfair trade practices and express their desire for a more just and more open multilateral trade system for the benefit of welfare of their peoples; bearing in mind the conclusions of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, urge parties to avoid trade measures that would undermine the implementation of its results and adversely affect the economic situation of other nations;

22. Emphasize the role of regional and subregional integration in improving international competitiveness of national economies and contributing to the development process;

23. Welcome the forthcoming institutionalization of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries, whose aims coincide with and strengthen the major goals of peace and cooperation of the zone;

24. Declare that scientific and technical cooperation are of fundamental importance and, in this sense, stress the need to promote an exchange of information on research and development in the South Atlantic region;

25. Decide to broaden the scope of studies and intensify contacts aimed at developing business and tourist cooperation, through business missions, trade fairs and exhibitions, as well as joint ventures and other activities geared to increasing trade and tourism among the States of the zone;

26. Decide to promote and develop direct air, sea and telecommunications links within the zone;

27. Express their concern over the continued spread of traffic of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and the enormous danger it poses to society, agreeing that it calls for joint action to address the problem;

28. Welcome the offer made by South Africa to host a meeting of senior officials on the question of trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as soon as possible;

29. Welcome the offer made by the Government of Brazil to host a meeting, in early 1995, of high-level authorities of the States of the zone in the fields of sports and youth matters;

30. Express their conviction that the zone will continue to be an active instrument for enhancing intraregional and interregional cooperation and, in this respect, commit themselves to promoting the objectives of the zone;

31. Welcome the offers made by the Governments of South Africa, Argentina and Benin to host the fourth, fifth and sixth Ministerial meetings of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic in 1995, 1996, 1997, respectively;

32. Congratulate the Government of Brazil for its enthusiasm and effort in seeking to confer renewed vitality to the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic.

Notes

a/ A/CONF.157/23.

b/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twentieth Session, Annexes, agenda item 105, document A/5975.

c/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 634, No. 9068.

d/ A/47/277-S/24111; see Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-seventh Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1992, document S/24111.

e/ See the Peace Accords for Angola, Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-sixth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1991, document S/22609, annex.

f/ Agreement relating to the situation in Liberia (S/22609, annex).

g/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda, resolution 1, annex I).

h/ Ibid., annex II.

i/ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I).

j/ See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

k/ International Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (A/AC.241/27).

l/ Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, Basel, 1989, International Legal Material, vol. 28, p. 657.

m/ Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa, 1991, International Legal Material, vol. 30, 1991 and vol. 31, 1992.

n/ Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

ANNEX II

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Declaration on the Denuclearization of the South Atlantic adopted at the third meeting of States members of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic

The States of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic,

Determined to continue to contribute to the process of general and complete disarmament, under effective international control, in particular in the field of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, with a view to strengthening international peace and security,

Stressing the growing importance of the symbiotic relationship between disarmament and development in current international relations, and recognizing the importance of promoting social and economic development and international cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, all of which would contribute significantly to the achievement of the objectives of the zone,

Recalling the principles and norms of international law applicable to the maritime space, in particular the use of the high seas for peaceful uses and the freedom of navigation and overflight,

1. Reaffirm the commitment made by the States of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, in accordance with internationally recognized legal instruments;

2. Welcome the recent progress towards the full entry into force of the Treaty of Tlatelolco a/ for all States in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will permit the consolidation in the near future of the statute of the whole region as a nuclear-weapon-free zone;

3. Welcome further the efforts made towards the implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa b/ leading to the conclusion of a treaty on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa;

4. Urge all States to take effective measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in all its aspects and ultimately to eliminate such weapons;

5. Solemnly declare their objective to turn the South Atlantic region into a nuclear-weapon-free zone, and accordingly shall undertake all efforts to prohibit and prevent, in their respective territories and jurisdictional waters, the testing, use, manufacture, production, acquisition, receipt, storage, installation, deployment and possession of any nuclear weapon, as well as to refrain from engaging in, encouraging or authorizing, directly or indirectly, any of these activities in the South Atlantic;

6. Urge all States to fully respect the status of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic.

Notes

a/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 634, No. 9068.

b/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twentieth Session, Annexes, agenda item 105, document A/5975.

ANNEX III

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Declaration on the Marine Environment adopted at the third meeting of States members of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic

The States members of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic,

Reaffirming their determination to develop and strengthen their cooperation to promote the purposes and objectives of the zone;

Emphasizing the importance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea a/ as an instrument regulating the uses of the oceans and their resources in a manner consistent with the interests of all nations;

Drawing upon Agenda 21 b/ for the planning and the development of their efforts to manage the coastal and ocean environment in the zone;

Acknowledging that the marine environment forms an integrated whole that is an essential component of global life and presents unique opportunities for sustainable development;

Emphasizing the importance of the preservation of the region's environment and recognizing the threat that pollution poses to the marine and coastal environment, its ecological balance and its resources;

Reaffirming the need for an integrated rather than sectoral management of the coastal and ocean environment and for obtaining the necessary means to ensure its integrated management;

Aware of the dependence of many coastal communities on the marine living resources and of the importance of the development of national fisheries;

Desirous to pursue new forms of integrated management and development of coastal and ocean areas that include the application of the "precautionary principle" to the extent of existing possibilities;

Recognizing the need to promote institutional arrangements to uphold the implementation of programmes for the protection of coastal and ocean areas as well as the development of their economic resources;

Declare that they should:

1. Exchange information and render each other assistance on practical matters relating to the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, a/ in particular national legislation on areas such as:

(a) Development of skills and capabilities in the marine sector;

(b) Protection and preservation of the marine environment;

2. Take all necessary steps to prevent, reduce and control degradation of the marine environment resulting from the adverse effects of human activities;

3. Protect the coastal and marine environments - including coastal wetlands, nursery and spawning areas as well as other oceanic environments recognized for their importance to the life cycle of living resources - from destruction, degradation and other significant adverse impacts and, where necessary, rehabilitate such environments;

4. Give effect to integrated management and sustainable development of the coastal and marine environment under their national jurisdiction;

5. Take action at national and regional levels to prevent and eliminate pollution of the sea from land-based, sea-based or other sources in such a manner that the marine ecosystem will continue to sustain the legitimate uses of the seas, and maintain and improve its life-support and productive capacities;

6. Cooperate to prevent the introduction into the zone of wastes and other matters, such as toxic, harmful or noxious substances, industrial waste or sewage sludge, in particular for their disposal at sea and adopt preventive forms of activity that include contingency procedures in case of accidents and liability for the discharge of toxic products at sea;

7. Keep under surveillance, within the scope of their capabilities, the effects of activities in the zone, even those not prohibited by international law, in order to determine whether these activities are likely to adversely affect the marine environment, in a significant way;

8. Undertake appropriate efforts towards the full exercise of their rights in their respective exclusive economic zones and in the continental shelf and, in order to achieve the social and economic benefits of their exploitation, consider resorting to bilateral or multilateral means in the territories of other member States where the scientific, technological and economic capacity may be utilized with a view to:

(a) Improving the productivity of species and the preservation of marine habitats, through mutual assistance to develop capabilities to identify, explore and exploit the natural resources of their respective exclusive economic zones;

(b) Cooperating for the preservation of biological diversity, by the use of better methods for assessment of marine diversity and identification of endangered species, critical coastal and ocean habitats and the need for establishment of protected areas;

(c) Enhancing their capability to conserve, manage, and develop their own national fisheries through appropriate efforts to obtain assistance, including technological and technical assistance, from global, regional and subregional organizations;

9. Give due consideration to the needs of small-scale fisheries, and fish-farming communities, in particular in the area of education and training of fishing communities on responsible fishing;

10. Cooperate, as appropriate, and seek new financial resources from multilateral financial institutions or international organizations for the development of projects in the exploitation, management and conservation of marine living resources;

11. Widely apply precautionary approaches to fisheries management, adopting measures which aim at reducing the risk of damage to the marine living resources and the environment, taking full account of the best scientific and technical knowledge available;

12. Endeavour to develop conditions for participation in fishing of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks on the high seas and ensure their conservation and management;

13. Effectively exercise its jurisdiction and control over vessels flying their flag and ensure that those vessels do not engage in any activity that undermines national or international measures of conservation and management of marine living resources;

14. Cooperate to achieve measures for the conservation and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks on the high seas that are consistent with the measures established by coastal States for the same stocks;

15. Take measures beyond their exclusive economic zones, to preserve and protect their rights and interests, from pollution or threat of pollution or from harmful fishing practices such as overfishing;

16. Promote marine scientific research in the zone at national, regional and international levels;

17. Encourage arrangements between national universities and institutions engaged in marine scientific research for mutual cooperation and assistance;

18. Encourage symposia, seminars, lectures and other meetings of experts in the various fields covered in this Declaration;

19. Cooperate to acquire technological knowledge and instruments necessary for scientific research aimed at exploration and exploitation of living and non-living resources, as well as the prevention and effective control of marine pollution, bearing in mind the importance of direct cooperation among their national institutions;

20. Adopt measures designed for enhanced national capacity-building and human resources development, including the identification of their training requirements and of the facilities each State may provide on all technical and scientific areas required for activities in the marine environment;

21. Exchange information on experiences and, when applicable, share expertise with member States on the elaboration of national programmes and legislation;

22. Explore other forms of cooperation available through existing bilateral and multilateral channels for the benefit of development and capacity-building in all areas of concern expressed in this Declaration;

23. Indicate focal points for the exchange of information necessary for the realization of the objectives contained in the present Declaration, including the establishment of databases that may be relevant to the improvement of scientific knowledge of the marine environment.

Notes

a/ Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

b/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolution Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda, resolution 1, annex II).

ANNEX IV

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Declaration on Business Cooperation in the South Atlantic adopted at the third meeting of States members of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic

The representatives of the States of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic,

Expressing their desire to foster and intensify economic and commercial exchange, through cooperation among businessmen of the South Atlantic region;

Recognizing the need to strengthen commercial cooperation links among the States of the zone with a view to encouraging exchange of information regarding trade in relevant sectors within the zone;

Noting the desire to encourage exchange of information on trade, industry and tourism, to promote the establishment of business cooperation mechanisms among the States of the zone, and to facilitate trade missions - particularly of small and medium-size enterprises;

Acknowledging the importance of developing direct air, sea and telecommunications links between the States of the zone;

1. Decide to establish a permanent working party with a view to examining ways and means to achieve the above-mentioned objectives;

2. Request the Permanent Working Party to submit its recommendations at the next meeting of the States members of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic.

ANNEX V

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Decision adopted at the third meeting of States members of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic

Inter-sessional follow-up mechanism

The representatives of the States members of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic,

Considering that the member States have successfully met on an informal basis in the interim between their first three meetings,

Stressing the need to establish a formal inter-sessional mechanism for coordinating the follow-up of decisions made at the Brasilia meeting and on subsequent occasions, so as to ensure the continuity of dialogue between the zone countries,

Hereby decide that:

1. Representatives of the States members of the zone of peace and cooperation in the South Atlantic (ZPCSA) in New York be formally designated "The ZPCSA Permanent Committee";

2. The Committee shall henceforward have a mandate to present specific proposals, receive suggestions and guarantee follow-up for issues treated within the sphere of the zone, as well as to recommend the convening of extraordinary meetings at Ministerial level, as may be necessary;

3. The Chairmanship be exercised by the representative of the country which hosted the last meeting of the zone and shall coordinate the activities of the zone until the next meeting;

4. The Bureau of the Permanent Committee, which shall determine its own methods of work, be composed of the representatives of the host countries of the last, the current and the next meetings of the States of the zone.

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Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 70
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 4 October 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of an appeal by the President of the Azerbaijani Republic, Mr. Heydar Aliyev, dated 4 October 1994, to all States, Governments and international organizations, as received by fax (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex urgently circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 70, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eldar G. KOULIYEV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

[Original: Russian]

Appeal addressed to all States, Governments and international organizations by the President of the Azerbaijani Republic on 4 October 1994

The Azerbaijani Republic, which is building a State based on the rule of law and conducting a policy of openness to the whole world, is in danger.

Forces controlled from outside the country are pursuing a policy aimed at the violent overthrow of the State through armed rebellion.

Relying on my people and its solemn determination to defend its statehood, freedom and independence, I am taking every possible measure to carry out its will.

In these difficult times, I appeal to all of you to do everything within your power to support the legitimate leaders of Azerbaijan and the sovereignty and independence of its people in order to prevent the triumph of violence and reaction.

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly, in its decision 48/445 of 21 December 1993, took note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General (A/48/451 and Corr.1 and 2) and requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its forty-ninth session and to submit subsequently annual updates on further developments relevant to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/215 of 20 December 1991.

2. In accordance with decision 48/445, the Secretary-General sent a note verbale to all members of the international community, drawing their attention to resolution 46/215. Letters were also addressed to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and well-established scientific institutions with expertise in the area of living marine resources.

3. The Secretary-General has received a number of responses and submissions from States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and scientific organizations. He wishes to express his appreciation for all the contributions.

4. The present report, which takes into account such contributions, is submitted to the General Assembly in response to the request contained in decision 48/445.

II. ACTIVITIES OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

5. The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) informed the Secretary-General on 11 April 1994 that the members of NAFO had endorsed United Nations resolutions concerning large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing and that that method of fishing was not currently practised in the NAFO Convention Area.

6. In its submission of 9 May 1994 to the Secretary-General, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) indicated that, at its 13th regular meeting, held at Madrid in November 1993, the Commission had adopted a resolution on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing in which it expressed its serious concern over the potential negative impact of large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing of the marine resources of the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea and its intention to closely monitor the effect of drift-net fishing of those resources, and therefore called upon all its member nations to ensure that the global moratorium called for in the United Nations resolutions was fully implemented and encouraged all members of the international community to take measures individually and collectively to prevent all large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing on the high seas.

7. In its reply of 31 May 1994, the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) informed the Secretary-General that since the adoption of Commission resolution 7/IX in 1990, 1/ no cases of activities or conduct inconsistent with the terms of resolution 46/215 had been reported to it.

8. In its submission of 2 June 1994 to the Secretary-General, the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) reported that, although the Convention for the Conservation of Anadromous Stocks in the North Pacific Ocean 2/ had not been elaborated to prohibit large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, prohibition of fishing for anadromous fish on the high seas area of the North Pacific Ocean, where fishing had been mainly conducted by using drift-nets, had eventually contributed to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/215.

9. In its report to the Secretary-General dated 14 June 1994, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) submitted the following information:

"...

"7. The European Community (EC) introduced regulation 345/92 in 1992 to govern the use of large-scale pelagic drift-nets by its members. However, in April 1994 the European Parliament considered, on the basis of a comprehensive paper submitted by the European Commission, the issue of the use of large-scale pelagic drift-nets by vessels flagged in EC States. The matter will also be considered further by the EC Council of Fisheries Ministers in Luxembourg in June 1994.

"8. According to EC sources, Ireland, Italy and France are seeking derogations for 1994 to enable vessels to deploy drift-nets in excess of the limit (i.e., 2.5 kilometres in length) specified in EC regulation 345/92. Ireland and France are seeking derogations to permit a limited number of their flag vessels to use nets of up to 5 km in length while Italy is seeking a derogation to use nets up to 9 km in length. However, there is considerable opposition in the EC to the use of large-scale pelagic drift-nets, most notably by Spain and Greece, and an early resolution of the differences among EC members on the drift-net issue is not anticipated.

"9. In May 1994, following a demonstration of about 1,000 fishermen in Rome, the Italian Government indicated in a press release issued by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forest Resources that at the forthcoming EC Council of Fisheries Ministers, the Italian delegation would (i) press for the deployment of drift-nets in the Mediterranean Sea of up to 9 km in length in order to ensure that adequate incomes were earned by Italian fishermen, and (ii) propose that the phase-out period for the use of drift-net gear be postponed from 1997 to 2004. The Minister also indicated that a working group consisting of fishermen, unions and environmentalists, which was established in the Ministry in 1993, would continue to study the drift-net fishing problem.

"10. In a press release in November 1993, Greenpeace International claimed that the EC failed in 1993 to provide information to the Secretary-General concerning illegal fishing by Italian vessels using large-scale pelagic drift-nets in the Mediterranean Sea. Greenpeace International maintained that 600-700 Italian vessels fish in the Mediterranean Sea each year with 10-12 km-long drift-nets.

"11. In the same press release Greenpeace International also claimed that a French fleet of about 60 vessels using large-scale pelagic drift-nets (with an average length of 7 km) continued to operate for tuna in the North-East Atlantic Ocean. FAO also has received informal industry confirmation of the operation of drift-net vessels in this fishery, and it is understood that both French and Irish vessels are deploying this type of gear.

"...

"19. The General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM) has played an important role in bringing to the attention of policy makers in the Mediterranean that fisheries conservation and management measures adopted by States in the region, and other measures internationally agreed such as the global moratorium on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, should be consistent and applied and enforced jointly on a regional basis.

"20. According to the GFCM, violations with respect to the use of large-scale pelagic drift-nets in the GFCM area are still occurring, especially in more remote locations where monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) is lacking. Therefore, it is imperative that the use of large-scale pelagic drift-nets in the Mediterranean Sea in general, and in the western Mediterranean in particular, be kept under close and continuous scrutiny."

10. In its reply of 16 June 1994 to the Secretary-General, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) reported that in the context of the IOC-FAO Ocean Science in relation to Living Resources (OSLR) programme, IOC was endeavouring to obtain, and provide for Government use, such information regarding living marine resources as formed part of an informative basis for decision-making and assessment of the effectiveness of management, including a global fisheries moratorium. IOC would ensure that, in its future programmes and activities, measures were strongly encouraged and supported individually or collectively to prevent large-scale pelagic drift-net operations on the high seas.

11. In its submission of 4 July 1994 to the Secretary-General, the Commission of the European Communities reported that the Community regulation regarding the use of large-scale drift-net fishing had been laid down in article 9 bis of EEC Regulation No. 3094/86. According to that regulation, from 1 January 1994, all Community vessels, with the exception of those operating in the Baltic Sea, the Belts and the Sound, would be barred from using drift-nets, the individual or cumulative length of which exceeded 2.5 kilometres. With respect to fishing operations with drift-nets in the Baltic, on the recommendation of the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission, the Community regulation had allowed vessels to use large-scale drift-nets of up to 21 km for salmon and sea trout fishing. However, in a recent recommendation, the Commission had proposed to phase out progressively the use of large-scale drift-nets within the Community fishery jurisdiction.

12. In its response to the Secretary-General dated 22 July 1994, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) submitted the following report:

"1. The 'protection of marine living resources' is, by decision of our Governing Council, one of the three components constituting UNEP's oceans programme. A large part of the Oceans and Coastal Areas Programme Activity Centre (OCA/PAC) activities undertaken in the framework of this component are directly related to the conservation of marine biodiversity and are an integral part of the UNEP programme's contribution to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Recognizing FAO's role and mandate, UNEP has concentrated on species and ecosystems that are not commercially exploited by fisheries.

"2. Efforts have been devoted through OCA/PAC to the problems related to drift-net fishing. Substantive support was given to a meeting held in Wellington, New Zealand (24-25 November 1989) which led to the adoption of the Wellington Convention on the Prohibition of Drift-net Fishing in the South Pacific and to General Assembly resolution 44/225 on this issue. As follow-up to this resolution, a study entitled 'Drift-net fisheries and their impact on non-target species: a worldwide review' was prepared in cooperation with FAO and published in 1991 as FAO Fisheries Technical Paper 320.

"3. The issue of drift-net fisheries is of particular interest in the context of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Management and Utilization of Marine Mammals (MMAP). The MMAP was developed between 1978 and 1983 jointly by UNEP and FAO, in collaboration with other intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies concerned with marine mammal issues. It was adopted by UNEP in 1984. As envisaged by the Plan, major international agencies concerned with marine mammals were invited to join in a Planning and Coordinating Committee (PCC), composed of both intergovernmental (UNEP, FAO, IOC/UNESCO, and Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)) and non-governmental organizations (the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Greenpeace International, and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)), through which they coordinate their work in this field. UNEP has assigned a Secretary to the Action Plan since 1985. Five meetings on the PCC have been convened since 1988.

"4. At its 5th meeting, held at Nairobi from 16 to 18 February 1993, the PCC recognized the importance of the General Assembly resolutions on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing and its impact on living marine resources. It also expressed the view that the PCC should foster and maintain links with relevant organizations on this matter. The PCC agreed on the importance of establishing a world-wide Registry of Drift-net Vessels as an appropriate step towards implementation of the resolutions, recognizing the complexity in the establishment of a Registry. 3/

"5. At its 6th meeting, held at Crowborough, United Kingdom, from 30 June to 3 July 1994, the PCC expressed serious concern about the current situation in the Mediterranean, in particular the continuation of large-scale illegal drift-net fishing and the intention of some countries to permit such practices, or even eventually to legalize them, despite resolutions to the contrary by the European Union and the United Nations General Assembly.

"6. Concern for the by-catch levels of the striped dolphin (Stenella coerueoalba), judged unsustainable, was expressed in the report of the Workshop on Mortality of Cetaceans in Passive Fishing Nets and Traps, held at La Jolla, California, from 22 to 25 October 1990. The meeting was convened with the support of UNEP. An article entitled 'The future of drift-net fishing on the high seas' with particular reference to the Mediterranean Sea was featured in issue No. 10 of the MMAP newsletter The Pilot. Its authors, although noting that 'there can be no doubt that the situation improved significantly in many parts of the world' since the moratorium was adopted, stated that 'the use of large-scale pelagic drift-nets in international waters has far from ended. There is concern that at least some drift-netting vessels have simply shifted to fishing in exclusive economic zones under access agreements.'

"7. The PCC noted the importance of the existing Action Plan for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean, developed under the auspices of the Barcelona Convention. The PCC emphasized the need for further effective instruments of international legislation in the Mediterranean and Black seas. It supported the intention of the Bonn Convention Secretariat to rapidly revise the draft Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Mediterranean and Black Seas and Contiguous Waters (ASCOMABS) and provide further opportunities for this issue to be discussed.

"8. The Action Plan for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean was adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, at its 7th ordinary meeting held at Cairo in October 1991. That meeting mandated the National Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas to review the Action Plan with a view to its implementation. Paragraph 11 of the Action Plan on 'Obligations' stated the following:

> "'The Contracting Parties shall take all the necessary measures to ensure a favourable conservation status for cetaceans by protecting them and their habitats from undue use and cumulative effects resulting directly or indirectly from activities under national jurisdiction or control. Such measures should include:
>
> "'...
>
> "'- The regulation of fishing gear and practices in order to eliminate by-catches and to prevent fishing gear from being lost or discarded at sea;
>
> "'- A ban on the use of large-scale drift-nets;
>
> "'...'

"9. At the second meeting of National Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas, held at Athens in October 1992, a series of additional items were adopted in the form of an annex to the Action Plan. This annex contains a recommendation concerning the establishment of an ad hoc group of experts

aimed at assisting the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA), responsible for the implementation of the Action Plan, on scientific and technical matters.

"10. The first meeting of the ad hoc Group of Experts on the Action Plan for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean was convened by RAC/SPA in parallel with the Eighth Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society (Montpellier, France, 3-6 March 1994).

"11. The meeting issued the following main recommendations relevant to General Assembly resolution 46/215 to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the efficient implementation of the Action Plan:

- To strengthen their national legislation relevant to the protection of cetaceans; ...

- To implement urgently the recommendations of the Action Plan concerning the regulation of fisheries, and take appropriate measures to fight illegal fishing;

"..."

13. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) stated it had no information to contribute to the report of the Secretary-General in pursuance of decision 48/445.

14. In its response of 13 April 1994, the International Council of Environmental Law informed the Secretary-General that it was not directly involved in the implementation of General Assembly decision 48/445. However, it indicated that the International Council of Environmental Law General Assembly, at its nineteenth session, held at Buenos Aires from 17 to 26 January 1994, had adopted a resolution on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing in the Mediterranean, in which it urged all Governments bordering the Mediterranean Sea urgently to negotiate a legally binding international regime for high seas fishing in international waters that would set strict environmental standards for high seas fishing and institute regional mechanisms to ensure the enforcement of regulations, and called for the immediate implementation of the moratorium as called for in resolution 46/215.

III. REVIEW BY REGION

A. General

1. Information provided by States

15. In its reply of 23 March 1994, Ukraine notified the Secretary-General that Ukraine was fully implementing General Assembly decision 48/445 and resolution 46/215 and "strictly observes the global moratorium on all large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing operations on the high seas of the world's oceans, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas".

16. In its response of 1 July 1994, New Zealand informed the Secretary-General that, as a sponsor of resolutions 44/225, 45/197 and 46/215, a supporter of decisions 47/443 and 48/445, and as the depositary of the Convention for the Prohibition of Fishing with Long Drift-nets in the South Pacific (the Wellington Convention), New Zealand attached great importance to the full implementation of the global moratorium on all large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing. New Zealand was, however, aware of reports of drift-net fishing activity in other areas, such as the Mediterranean Sea and North-East Atlantic and wished to express its strong concern about such reports and to urge all members of the international community to take the necessary steps to ensure that their nationals or interests acted consistently with the global moratorium. In this context, it welcomed the considerable efforts of some Governments and interests to cease using long drift-nets. In addition, New Zealand believed that the Secretary-General's annual reports to the General Assembly, in accordance with decision 48/445, would be an important tool for monitoring progress made and determining whether further action should be taken by the General Assembly to address rogue activities.

17. In a reply to the Secretary-General dated 8 July 1994, Australia transmitted the following comments:

> "...
>
> "Australia remains firmly opposed to large-scale drift-net fishing on the high seas and will continue to press in all relevant forums for the continued full and effective implementation of paragraph 3 of resolution 46/215. We believe that large-scale drift-net fishing causes unacceptable waste and environmental damage, and that it should be replaced with selective and sustainable fishing methods in accordance with responsible fisheries management practices.
>
> "Australia fully appreciates the efforts key distant-water fishing interests have made to change their fishing operations so as to cease large-scale drift-net fishing on the high seas in accordance with paragraph 3 of resolution 46/215.
>
> "We have heard unsubstantiated reports that, despite the European Union regulation limiting to 2.5 km the length of drift-nets for each vessel, some European Union vessels have been deploying longer drift-nets in the North Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea. We understand that the European Union has proposed to phase out the use of drift-nets by its members in 1997, and we applaud that course of action.
>
> "So that the implementation of resolution 46/215 can be monitored properly, Australia requests the Secretary-General to continue to compile information from relevant fishing nations on the nature and effectiveness of measures they have employed to ensure implementation of the resolution, including fleet reduction schemes and inspection and enforcement measures.
>
> "Countries whose vessels have been involved in drift-net fishing on the high seas should actively discourage the owners of those vessels from attempts to continue drift-net operations under other flags. In this

context, the provisions of the recently concluded FAO agreement, to promote compliance with international conservation and management measures by fishing vessels on the high seas are particularly relevant.

"...

"In conclusion, Australia reiterates its full support for the provisions of resolution 46/215 and for the efforts taken by fishing nations to abide by it. We call on all members of the international community to cooperate in ensuring that large-scale drift-net fishing does not occur on the high seas."

18. The United States of America made the following submission, dated 19 July 1994:

"The United States remains seriously concerned over continuing reports of large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing inconsistent with the terms of resolution 46/215 in high seas areas of the north-eastern Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. The United States has repeatedly encouraged flag State authorities to take responsible enforcement action and to ensure that their fishing fleets comply with resolution 46/215, and several report that they have implemented more stringent enforcement procedures. The United States is also seeking to independently confirm the reports of activity inconsistent with the resolution.

"...

"As a principal co-sponsor of General Assembly resolution 46/215, as well as resolutions 44/225 and 45/197, and a supporter of decisions 47/443 and 48/445, the United States takes a particular interest in the effective and full implementation of a global moratorium on all large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing on the high seas in the light of the adverse impacts such fishing has upon the world's living marine resources.

"The United States firmly believes that the best available scientific evidence demonstrates the wastefulness and potential ecosystem-scale negative impacts of large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing on the high seas. The United States believes it was appropriate that the General Assembly, in recognition of the unacceptable impacts of large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing on the high seas, and by its resolution 46/215, called upon all members of the international community to ensure that a global moratorium on all large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing on the high seas be fully implemented by 31 December 1992.

"The United States attaches great importance to compliance with resolution 46/215, has taken measures individually and collectively to prevent large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing on the high seas and has called upon all members of the international community to implement and comply with the resolution. The United States has urged all members of the international community, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and well-established scientific institutions with expertise

in relation to living marine resources to report to the Secretary-General any activity or conduct inconsistent with the terms of resolution 46/215.

"On 11 October 1993, the United States Departments of Transportation, Commerce, and Defense entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to more effectively enforce United States domestic laws and international agreements that conserve and manage living marine resources. The Memorandum of Understanding establishes a mechanism for the use of the surveillance capabilities of the Department of Defense for locating and identifying vessels violating United States marine conservation laws and international agreements, including resolution 46/215, and also sets formal procedures for communicating vessel locations to the Department of Commerce and the United States Coast Guard.

"The Coast Guard monitors high seas fishing activity in support of resolution 46/215. Enforcement efforts in 1993 and 1994 have included United States Coast Guard aircraft sorties and cutter patrols in areas of former large-scale high seas drift-net fishing activity.

"In 1993 the United States Coast Guard used a combination of 148 cutter patrol days and 829 aircraft patrol hours to monitor former areas of large-scale high seas drift-net fishing in the North Pacific Ocean. The United States considers this effort very successful in deterring unauthorized drift-net fishing activity.

"In 1994 the United States Coast Guard has maintained a full-time cutter in the area of historical large-scale high seas drift-net fishing for 56 days during what had once been the peak of the large-scale high seas drift-net fishing season. In addition to this effort, United States Coast Guard cutters spent 66 days patrolling the larger area of the North Pacific between Hawaii and Alaska. For the remainder of 1994 a cutter will be scheduled 84 days for response, if necessary, to any unauthorized efforts; the United States Coast Guard plans to dedicate 560 aircraft hours in 1994 to large-scale high seas drift-net fishing patrol in the North Pacific. These flights will be supplemented by flights conducted by Canadian aircraft staging from United States bases in the Aleutian islands. Canadian flights are closely coordinated with United States Coast Guard flights and cutter patrols. In addition, a United States National Marine Fisheries Service Agent accompanies Canadian flights.

"United States Coast Guard patrol efforts this year reflect the enhanced surveillance capabilities available to this mission under the Memorandum of Understanding between the departments of Transportation, Commerce and Defense and the observed levels of activity in the historical areas of large-scale drift-net fishing activity on the high seas. The United States Coast Guard will adjust its patrol efforts as necessary to provide an appropriate response to reports of fishing activity or conduct inconsistent with the terms of resolution 46/215.

"...

"The United States remains vigilant in its efforts to implement resolution 46/215 and remains concerned that, in some circumstances, individual vessel owners may seek to frustrate the resolution.

"...

"The United States continues to attach extreme importance to compliance with resolution 46/215 and encourages all members of the international community to take measures to prohibit their nationals and vessels from undertaking any activity contrary to the terms of resolution 46/215, and to impose appropriate penalties against any that may undertake such activities."

2. Information provided by international organizations

19. In the above-mentioned report to the Secretary-General (see para. 9), FAO made the following submission:

"4. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/215, the Government of Japan discontinued issuing fishing licences for large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, commencing in 1993. According to a 1993 Government report, it was planned that Japan would conduct research/test fishing in the North Pacific on alternative fishing gears to determine whether such gears were feasible economically for harvesting squid.

"5. The fisheries administration in Taiwan Province of China has taken measures to reduce the size of its large-scale pelagic drift-net fleet and to comply with resolution 46/215. These measures, initially introduced in 1990, culminated in the administration deciding, with effect from 1993, not to issue fishing licences for the use of large-scale pelagic drift-net vessels.

"6. According to industry sources, more than 100 ... large-scale pelagic drift-net vessels [from the Republic of Korea] that normally target squid in the North Pacific were docked in December 1993 because of the global moratorium relating to the use of this type of gear. The moratorium has created difficulties both for the Government of the Republic of Korea and the fishing industry. However, the Government has initiated measures to convert vessels from large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing and has appropriated 45.5 billion won (US$ 56.9 million at current rates of exchange) to help fishermen re-equip their vessels for other types of fishing.

"...

"22. The Institut Français de Recherche Pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (IFREMER) published in 1993 findings relating to the impact of large-scale pelagic drift-nets on dolphin populations in the French albacore tuna drift-net fishery. Data for the research were collected from (a) observers during 1992 and 1993 who covered about one quarter of total fishing trips made, and (b) the results of three sighting surveys in 1993. These data

gave an estimate of the population size of common and striped dolphin populations of 61,888 and 74,843 respectively, with an average mortality rate caused by fishing of 0.7 per cent and 1.6 per cent, respectively. A model was built in order to simulate the effect of the highest level of mortality observed. It was found that these values would lead to a decrease of 1 per cent in the natural growth rate of dolphin stocks. The study concluded that it was unlikely that such values would jeopardize the survival and the presence of the species. Total incidental catches of all species represented 15 per cent of total catches, of which cetaceans represented 0.1 to 0.2 per cent of total catches. Albacore tuna represented the remaining 85 per cent of total catches.

"23. Since the preparation of FAO's last report on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing in June 1993, indications are that the international incidence of this method of fishing has declined further. Indeed, with the exception of the Mediterranean Sea and pockets in the North-East Atlantic Ocean it would appear that use of large-scale pelagic fishing has all but disappeared. This situation can be attributed primarily to action taken by Asian distant-water fishing nations and entities (Japan, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan Province of China) to comply fully with General Assembly resolution 46/215 by not authorizing vessels that fly their respective flags to deploy large-scale pelagic drift-net gear.

"24. On the basis of information available to FAO, the principal use of large-scale drift-net fishing gear, in contravention of resolution 46/215, is by EC flag vessels operating in the Mediterranean Sea and the North-East Atlantic Ocean."

20. In its submission of 27 June 1994 to the Secretary-General, the Organización Latinoamericana de Desarrollo Pesquero (OLDEPESCA) reported that, according to the information it had received from its member States:

(a) El Salvador had no objection to General Assembly decision 48/445;

(b) Cuba had not enacted any measure relating to such fishing methods because the country did not, nor did it intend to, make use of such methods for fishing purposes;

(c) Panama, being a co-sponsor of the General Assembly resolution, had taken measures not to approve new applications for registration of ships using the drag-net or drift-net fishing method, and to cancel the registration of Panama-registered vessels which were reliably reported to be using this fishing method;

(d) The large-scale fishing fleet operating under Honduran jurisdiction in the Caribbean Sea caught shrimp and lobster using seabed draw-nets, bag-nets or diving and Honduras had no large-scale fishing fleet using pelagic and mid-water nets; accordingly, decision 48/445 did not apply to the case of Honduran fishery activities;

(e) Nicaragua had no comments on the Secretary-General's note given the consensus established as to the need to protect certain marine species which

were accidentally caught in such nets and had no objection to the implementation of the decision as recommended by the Second Committee of the General Assembly on 21 December 1993;

(f) The Peruvian regulations of the General Fishing Law, approved under Supreme Decree No. 02-94-PE, expressly prohibited - in article 184 (c) - the use of non-handcrafted drift-nets. In addition to this ban, the code of ordinances governing the fishing of tuna and similar or related species permitted the use only of selective catch methods such as the longline and fishing aggregating devices (FADs). The code of ordinances also provided that tuna-fishing vessels flying the national or foreign flags ought to observe the following conditions:

(i) Net mesh shall be at least 100 millimetres (four inches) in length;

(ii) Nets shall be fitted with dolphin protection fabrics and other devices preventing harm to marine mammals associated with tuna;

(iii) The protection fabrics of ring nets shall be properly "aligned" and provided with the corresponding recently dated international certificate to ensure they are functioning efficiently;

(iv) Nets shall preferably be cast towards tuna not associated with dolphins.

In the light of these paragraphs, the National Department had taken a favourable view of the decision adopted by the General Assembly.

B. Atlantic Ocean

1. Information provided by States

21. In its response of 11 May 1994 to the Secretary-General, Namibia reported that it was in full support of the efforts to curb large-scale drift-net fishing, not only on the high seas, but also in declared fishing zones and exclusive economic zones. In addition, Namibia communicated the following:

> "The Namibian legislation on this topic reads as follows: 'Any person who catches fish by means of a drift-net, being a gill-net or any other net, or a combination of such nets, with a total length exceeding 1.5 km, or any shorter length as may be prescribed, being placed in the water and allowed to drift for the purpose of trapping or entangling fish, shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding 1,000,000 rand or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 15 years or to both such fine and such imprisonment'. The Government thus follows a policy of not allowing any drift-net fishing whatsoever, even with nets totalling less than 2.5 km in length."

22. In its reply of 18 May 1994 to the Secretary-General, the Netherlands reported that its fleet was not practising drift-net fishing given the fact that the relevant regulation on "technical equipment" of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries of the Kingdom contained a prohibition on the

use and possession of drift-nets longer than 2.5 km in accordance with regulation 345/92 of the European Community.

23. In its reply of 30 June 1994, Mexico informed the Secretary-General that its fleet fishing for shark and marlin used long nets and drag-nets but these activities were not carried out on the high seas. In addition, Mexico had standing instructions to deny permits for shark fishery and marlin fishery using drag-nets longer than 2,000 metres and 2,500 metres respectively.

24. In its submission of 8 July 1994, Panama informed the Secretary-General that the Government of Panama had refused requests for registration submitted by foreign vessels using a drift-net fishing method and had indicated that, should those vessels be indicted for practising drift-net fishing, their registration would be revoked following the appropriate investigation of the National Merchant Marine.

2. Information provided by international organizations

25. In its submission of 27 June 1994 to the Secretary-General, the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) reiterated that NASCO was unaware of any large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing within the Convention area.

26. According to the reply of 30 June 1994 to the Secretary-General from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), those ICES member countries which had replied to the Council indicated that they were unaware of any activities by their nationals in the ICES area that might be inconsistent with the terms of resolution 46/215.

27. According to the above-mentioned report of FAO to the Secretary-General (see para. 9),

> "...
>
> "12. Little information is available concerning the use of large-scale pelagic drift-net vessels in the Atlantic Ocean. According to industry sources vessels with a drift-net fishing capacity continue to be based in the region and such vessels could be operating seasonally in the Atlantic Ocean. Monitoring of their activities is difficult."

3. Information provided by non-governmental organizations

28. It has been reported, however, that several French-registered fishing vessels and one Irish registered fishing vessel had been using large-scale drift-nets for tuna fishing in the North Atlantic during the months of June and July, in violation of General Assembly resolution 46/215 and EC regulation 345/92. 4/

C. Baltic Sea

Information provided by States

29. In its submission of 19 May 1994, Finland informed the Secretary-General that fishing was practised by Finland only in the Baltic Sea in its own fishing zone and that the method of drift-net fishing was not used in this respect.

30. In its response of 21 June 1994 to the Secretary-General, Sweden submitted the following information:

> "The United Nations drift-net moratorium forbids large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing on the high seas. In the view of the Swedish Government, the moratorium is important to protect, inter alia, dolphins on unregulated high seas.
>
> "Swedish fishing vessels have been using drift-nets to catch mackerel and herring in the Atlantic, mainly in the Kattegatt and the Skagerrak. The total length of these nets falls short of 2.5 km. Normally their upper limit is about 1,500 metres.
>
> "The Baltic, which is a semi-enclosed sea, has no unregulated area. The regulations on drift-net fishing have been established within the framework of the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission. When fishing for salmon and trout with drifting nets and anchored floating nets, not more than 600 nets per vessel may be used. The length of each net may not exceed 35 metres.
>
> "Sweden has also initiated a follow-up programme concerning by-catches from fishing, inter alia, with drift-nets."

D. Indian Ocean

1. Information provided by States

31. In its response of 27 April 1994, Bahrain informed the Secretary-General that its Ministry of Commerce and Agriculture had issued Ministerial Decree No. 8 in 1988, which prohibited the use of large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing in its territorial waters, thus making the use of such drift-net fishing illegal and against the fishing resources law.

32. In its reply of 26 May 1994, Maldives notified the Secretary-General that the measures contained in General Assembly resolution 46/215 were being implemented in Maldives through regulations for issuing licences to fish in its exclusive economic zone, established by the Fisheries Law.

33. In its response of 27 May 1994 to the Secretary-General, Iraq submitted the following information:

> "1. Due to the circumstances of the sanctions imposed on Iraq, the sea fishing activities of Iraq are currently very limited and are being carried

out on the very traditional narrow coastal strip. Iraq also has no fishing activities [on the high seas].

"2. The fishing process in Iraq is governed by certain rules and regulations and supervised by specialized State personnel, and since Iraq overlooks the Arabian Gulf and has the rights to the regional and international waters, the Government of Iraq supports any resolution that preserves the fish reserve and ensures a safer environment."

34. In its submission of 30 June 1994, Mauritius informed the Secretary-General that it had prohibited drift-net activities in its waters by enacting the Prohibition of Drift-net Act, 1992 and to its knowledge, no drift-net activities were ever carried out in its waters. Mauritius also informed the Secretary-General that the adoption of the above-mentioned Act illustrated its contribution towards the implementation of resolution 46/215.

35. In its reply to the Secretary-General of 25 July 1994, the United Arab Emirates submitted the following information:

"1. The use of large-scale pelagic drift-nets for fishing in the territorial and adjacent waters of the United Arab Emirates is prohibited;

"2. The United Arab Emirates does not engage in any activity relating to the use of large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing on the high seas or open waters;

"3. The United Arab Emirates has previously indicated its support of General Assembly resolution 46/215 concerning the global moratorium on all large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing;

"4. The United Arab Emirates supports decision 48/445, adopted by the General Assembly on 21 December 1993."

36. In its above-mentioned reply (see para. 17), Australia made the following submission in respect of the Indian Ocean:

"... we have no reports of drift-net fishing activity to our west since the commencement date of the moratorium established by resolution 46/215. None the less, we remain concerned that drift-net fishing may be continuing in areas where the institutional framework may not be adequate to identify or deal with the practice, such as the relatively remote waters of the southern Indian Ocean. Continued drift-net fishing there would pose a serious threat to marine resources in the region, particularly southern bluefin tuna and albacore tuna, and would undermine sustainable fisheries management initiatives for both species."

2. Information provided by international organizations

37. According to information provided by FAO in the above-mentioned report to the Secretary-General (see para. 9):

"17. In October 1993 an FAO-sponsored Expert Consultation on Indian Ocean Tunas held at Mahe, Seychelles, was told by an expert from Taiwan Province of China that large-scale pelagic drift-net vessels of Taiwan Province of China had ceased operations in the Indian Ocean in 1992, in accordance with the global moratorium called for in General Assembly resolution 46/215. In addition, the Indo-Pacific Tuna Development and Management Programme has advised FAO that there have been no other reports of large-scale pelagic drift-nets being used in the Indian Ocean."

E. The Mediterranean

1. Information provided by States

38. In its submission of 3 June 1994, Monaco informed the Secretary-General that, in line with its long-standing concern over the protection of marine species, particularly those endangered by drift-net fishing practices, it had signed on 22 March 1993 in Brussels, along with France and Italy, a declaration establishing a sanctuary for the conservation and protection of marine mammals in an area off the coasts of France, Italy and Monaco. The Declaration would commit signatory States to include in their national legislation provisions banning the use of drift-nets. Consequently, Monaco had implemented "without restriction General Assembly resolutions concerning drift-net fishing and has even gone beyond their provisions in order to protect endangered marine species present in its maritime space."

39. In its response of 3 June 1994 to the Secretary-General, Turkey indicated that no large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing was practised in Turkish territorial waters and "contiguous offshore zones", nor were Turkish vessels engaged in any fishing activity on the high seas.

2. Information provided by international organizations

40. In the above-mentioned report to the Secretary-General, FAO indicated that:

"...

"18. Several non-EC Mediterranean States have adopted restrictive regulations concerning the use of large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing gear by vessels flying their respective flags. These regulations generally conform with EC regulation 345/92, which took effect on 1 January 1992. The adoption and enforcement of these national regulations by non-EC Mediterranean States is designed primarily to reduce the risk of transfer of large-scale pelagic drift-net gear from EC States to non-EC States in the Mediterranean under the guise of technology transfer and within the framework of joint-venture fishing arrangements."

3. Information provided by non-governmental organizations

41. It has been reported that Italian swordfish drift-net vessels continued to use large-scale drift-nets in excess of the 2.5-km limit specified by EC regulation 345/92. A fleet of an estimated 600 vessels was alleged to be operating in international waters as well as in territorial waters of countries that expressly forbade the use of this gear. Although the Italian fleet "posed the biggest problem", other Mediterranean countries' vessels, from Morocco and Spain, were reported also to be continuing the use of large-scale drift-nets. 5/

F. Pacific Ocean

1. Information provided by States

42. In a note dated 2 June 1994, Ecuador informed the Secretary-General that, in compliance with General Assembly resolution 46/215, no drift-net fishing permits had been or would be granted to national or foreign vessels in waters under Ecuadorian jurisdiction. In addition, Ecuador did not have any projected regulation for allowing such fishing activity. Consequently Ecuadorian authorities faithfully had complied with resolution 46/215 and its terms for preventing drift-net fishing in the high seas since such activities would have adverse effects on the living marine resources.

43. In its reply to the Secretary-General of 14 June 1994, Japan submitted the following information:

> "1. Since 1 January 1993, it has issued no licences for large-scale drift-net fishing.
>
> "2. In 1993, it introduced a compensation system that encourages fishermen to discharge their crews and dispose of their fishing gear and vessels by offering them material inducement to do so. This step was taken in order to eliminate illegal drift-net fishing operations from the high seas and alleviate the resulting hardships suffered by those who depend on income from drift-net fishing (172 vessels were scrapped in 1993 and 11 more are to be scrapped in 1994, so that all compensation will have been disbursed by the end of 1995).
>
> "3. Also in 1993, it established and put into operation a one-year plan for enforcing the ban on drift-net fishing that utilizes six patrol vessels for a total of 460 days. The plan was renewed in 1994. (As a result, no illegal activities have been reported since the beginning of 1994.)"

44. In the above-mentioned response to the Secretary-General (see para. 16), New Zealand made the following submission:

> "New Zealand is pleased to report that there has been no drift-net activity within areas under its jurisdiction over the past 12 months. Nor are we aware of any reports of drift-net fishing activities in the broader Wellington Convention area.

"We note that the Forum Fisheries Agency has confirmed that it has received no reports of large-scale drift-net fishing in the South Pacific region over the past year.

"...

"New Zealand reiterates its call for all countries eligible to do so to support fully the Wellington Convention and its two protocols. The number of parties to the Convention has grown to nine. There are seven signatories to the Convention that have not yet ratified. There has been no change to support for the two protocols."

45. In the above-mentioned report to the Secretary-General (see para. 12), Australia gave the following information:

"On the high seas adjacent to Australia's east coast, no drift-net fishing activity has been reported to Australian authorities since the agreed cessation in the South Pacific came into force in July 1991.

"...

"Australia urges all countries which are eligible to become parties to the Wellington Convention or one or both of its protocols to do so, in support of the strong regional initiative which the Convention represents and also to confirm their commitment to full implementation of resolutions 44/225 and 46/215 in the South Pacific."

46. In its above-mentioned reply (see para. 18), the United States submitted the following report with respect to the Pacific Ocean:

"...

"On 3 December 1993, the United States and China signed a Memorandum of Understanding designed to ensure effective cooperation and implementation of resolution 46/215. Under the terms of the agreement, enforcement officials of either country may board and inspect vessels flying the United States or China flag in the North Pacific Ocean found using or equipped to use large-scale high seas pelagic drift-nets inconsistent with the provisions of resolution 46/215. The agreement also provides for enforcement officials of either country to ride on board high seas drift-net fishery enforcement vessels of the other country. The United States Coast Guard will carry China shipriders on three high seas fishery enforcement patrols this year in areas of former large-scale high seas drift-net fishing activity.

"...

"To date in 1994, the United States Coast Guard has not detected any large-scale drift-net fishing activity on the high seas. In late June, a Canadian aircraft patrol, operating from a United States base in the

Aleutian Islands with an agent of the United States National Marine Fisheries Service embarked, did sight a vessel possibly equipped for large-scale high seas drift-net fishing approximately 1,000 nautical miles north/north-east of Japan transiting to the south-west at 14 knots. The vessel was approximately 200 feet in length with a white hull and recently painted-over Asian characters on the stern. Subsequent flights were unable to relocate the vessel."

2. Information provided by international organizations

47. In its report to the Secretary-General, FAO gave the following information:

"14. The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) has reported to FAO that there is no information to indicate that large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing is occurring within the IATTC area (i.e., the Eastern Pacific Ocean).

"15. According to information provided to FAO by the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency, there were no reports of large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing in the South Pacific in the 1993/94 fishing season.

"16. As depository for the Convention for the Prohibition of Fishing with Long Drift-nets in the South Pacific, done at Wellington on 24 November 1989, the New Zealand Government advised FAO on 1 June 1994 that 16 States had signed the Convention while 9 States had ratified it. In addition, 1 State has signed and ratified Protocol I to the Convention while 3 States have signed, and 2 States have ratified, Protocol II to the Convention.

"...

"21. In 1993 research findings were published showing that the population of northern right whale dolphin (Lissodelphis borealis) in the North Pacific Ocean has been affected by large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing and that no apparent conservation measures are available. Two significant points emerged in the research, including (i) simple 'worst-case' estimates of depletion highlight the importance of accurate estimates of population abundance. Current abundance is reckoned to be 24-73 per cent of abundance in 1978, depending upon which estimate of population is assumed, and (ii) drift-net catches are highly aggregated. Reporting a kill rate of a fraction of an animal per unit of effort assumes that drift-nets 'cull' the population of animals and masks the more important effect of large, simultaneous kills of large fractions of pods, families or other reproductive units."

48. In its reply of 12 July 1994 to the Secretary-General, the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) submitted the following report:

"Over a reporting period of 12 months, the Forum Fisheries Agency has received a report from Australia that an Indonesian vessel was sighted drift-netting in the Australian fishing zone in December 1993. The vessel

was apprehended on the high seas and towed to Darwin. The master of the vessel was prosecuted, resulting in forfeiture of the catch and gear.

"An Australian surveillance flight also sighted a ... vessel [from Taiwan Province of China] operating in the Solomon Islands in April 1994.

"Apart from the above, the Agency has not received any other reports of drift-net fishing activities in the South Pacific region.

"The Convention for the Prohibition of Fishing with Long Drift-nets in the South Pacific has been in force for three years, since 17 May 1991. The Convention over the reporting period was signed on 11 August 1993 and ratified on 14 January 1994 by Fiji. That brings the number of FFA member countries that have signed the Convention to 13, and 8 that have ratified. The Agency is therefore pleased to report the continuing support of the member countries of FFA for the Convention. The Agency continues to encourage member countries of FFA that have not signed or ratified the Convention to do so."

Notes

1/ See A/46/615, para. 15.

2/ Done at Moscow on 11 February 1992, and signed by Canada, Japan, the Russian Federation and the United States of America. Entered into force on 16 February 1993.

3/ Meeting report available as document UNEP(OCA)/MM.WG.5/7.

4/ Communication from Federación de Cofradías de Pescadores de Guipúzcoa, 6 July 1994.

5/ Communication from Greenpeace International, 29 June 1994.

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STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR REGIONS

Summary reports on Benin, the Central African Republic and Madagascar

Report of the Secretary-General

I. BENIN

A. Background

1. In its resolution 47/159 of 18 December 1993, the General Assembly noted that the financial crisis that Benin was undergoing had led to a slowing down of its economic and social development, and that the disastrous consequences of repeated floods during the previous 10 years, alternating with periods of drought and pluviometric disturbances, were a major impediment to the implementation of development policies and strategies.

2. The General Assembly appealed to States, the international financial institutions of the United Nations, humanitarian organizations and voluntary agencies to respond generously and urgently to the needs of Benin and to continue and increase their assistance in response to the reconstruction, economic recovery and development needs of the country.

B. Economic and financial situation

3. Benin continued and consolidated its good economic performance and improved the macroeconomic policy framework based on political and economic liberalization. The gross domestic product has continued to grow in real terms, by 4.1 per cent in 1992 and 3.6 per cent in 1993. As in previous years, food

production is excedentary and the country is self-sufficient. However, imports continued to grow while exports remained stable throughout 1992-1993, thus aggravating the structural balance-of-payments deficit.

4. Improved mobilization of foreign resources through the structural adjustment programmes has reduced the deficit to a sustainable level (10 per cent of the gross domestic product). The volume of the public investment programme has grown in 1993 to approximately US$ 61 million against $50 million in 1992.

5. The banking sector has been reinforced through the opening of a new international bank. Prices remained relatively stable in 1993, with a rate of inflation of only 2.4 per cent, at least until the devaluation on 12 January 1994 of the national currency, the CFA franc, which resulted in an inflation rate of 52 per cent, eroding incomes and increasing social vulnerability.

C. Follow-up to the Round-table Conference

6. With the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Government of Benin held a Round-table Conference of Donors at Geneva on 2 and 3 April 1992. The Government of Benin reported on the results achieved from the implementation of the first and second structural adjustment programmes, and presented sectoral strategies and priorities to the donors, who welcomed the Government's declared intention of integrating the social aspects of development into its macroeconomic policies and achieving a greater degree of equity and participation in national development.

7. Of the six sectoral consultations planned (see A/47/337, para. 14), only two have so far taken place. The sectors, lead donor countries or agencies and dates were:

(a) Infrastructure and transports, World Bank, 14-15 October 1993;

(b) Social dimension of development, Germany, 20-21 June 1994.

8. Work on the remaining four sectoral consultations is at different stages of preparation, permitting the following tentative schedule:

(a) Rural development, France/World Bank, October 1994;

(b) Private sector, West African Development Bank/France, 3-4 November 1994;

(c) Health, European Union, December 1994;

(d) Education, France/United States of America, first quarter of 1995.

9. The first two sectoral consultations resulted in the mobilization of important financial resources amounting to $120 million and $16 million, respectively.

10. The country continues to benefit from important external aid flows from the international community. In 1993 this flow attained $156.6 million, against $134 million in 1992.

11. External assistance in connection with the structural adjustment programme amounted to $65 million or 23.7 per cent of the public investment programme, $1.8 million for the social emergency programme and $15.8 million from debt rescheduling.

12. Despite the important influx of external financial aid, the principal challenge for Benin will be the control of distortions in the wake of the devaluation which are a menace to the restructurization and redeployment of the economy. Social tensions, exacerbated by political strife, are threatening the national cohesion at a moment when the country needs to mobilize solidarity for the development effort.

II. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

A. Background

13. In its resolution 47/159, the General Assembly noted the grave difficulties that the Government of the Central African Republic had continued to face since 1982 in achieving the objectives of its development programme, owing to the harmful effects of the international economic situation. The Assembly appealed to the international community to continue and increase its assistance to the Central African Republic.

B. Priorities for action

14. Legislative and presidential elections were held in August-September 1993. The newly established Government then announced the general development orientations: getting the public administration and the Government back to work, setting the pace for economic recovery, and refurbishing the public finances. In more specific terms, the leading priorities are a sustainable increase in national output; a strengthening of the public administration system; social and human resources development; preservation and protection of the environment; and strengthening of the capability in national planning and economic management.

15. A donors consultation meeting for the Central African Republic was convened in May 1994 at Bangui by the Government, with the assistance of UNDP. It was an opportunity for discussion between the Government and donors concerning economic and financial strategies, planning priorities and sectoral policies. In follow-up to the meeting, consultations on the health sectors between the Government and donors are scheduled for November 1994 while consultations on education, training and employment are expected to be held in mid-1995. Copies of documentation relating to the meeting may be obtained from UNDP or the Government of the Central African Republic.

C. Assistance received

16. Previous reports of the Secretary-General indicated areas of support provided by the international community to the Central African Republic as the Government implemented the earlier stages of the five-year development plan and the structural adjustment programme. The table shows external assistance to the Central African Republic for the period from 1990-1993, as actually received and, in parentheses, as had been anticipated.

External assistance to the Central African Republic, 1990-1993

(Billions of CFA francs)

	1990		1991		1992		1993	
Investment	28.8	(36.7)	26.0	(36.6)	27.92	(31.88)	25.20	(29.7)
Technical assistance	13.7	(13.7)	11.0	(11.0)	22.52	(22.52)	20.00	(23.7)
State budget, of which debt relief	26.8 3.1	(24.0) (1.5)	16.5 -	(17.0) (-)	5.40 -	(8.76)	20.00 7.69	(23.7) (8.80)
Total	69.3	(74.4)	53.5	(64.6)	55.94	(62.56)	65.20	(75.21)

Source: Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Economic Affairs and Planning, Central African Republic.

17. The figures indicate that, in the period from 1990 to 1993, total external assistance to the Republic was less than had been expected and also that total external assistance to the country increased slightly in 1993 as compared with the two previous years.

D. Assessment of needs unmet and proposals for responding to them

18. The total budget deficit for 1994 is estimated at 234 billion CFA francs, of which 88 billion will be covered from internal sources and 109.6 billion from external resources, leaving a deficit of 36.4 billion to be met from the international community.

19. International assistance to help the Central African Republic achieve its social, economic and financial goals could be of the following kind:

(a) Full implementation of commitments made by donors at the May 1994 meeting;

(b) Support to the Government to implement a strengthened structural adjustment programme;

(c) Support under the sectoral consultations and the Round-table Conference to be held in November 1995.

III. MADAGASCAR

A. Review of the implementation of decisions taken in 1991

1. Cyclone Cynthia

20. In February 1991, Cyclone Cynthia struck the entire western portion of Madagascar with unusually heavy rains resulting in disastrous flooding, particularly in the plains of Mahabo and Morondava.

21. Immediate emergency assistance, funded primarily by Switzerland and France, met the most urgent needs of the disaster victims.

22. Swiss Cooperation, through "Team Cynthia", initiated a broad programme of humanitarian aid, financed jointly by Swiss Cooperation (team operations, food purchases and workers' wages), UNDP (food purchases), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) (tool and food purchases), the World Food Programme (WFP) (organization of food shipments) and the European Development Fund (FED) (oversight and supervision of construction work).

23. The construction work involved the repair of the main canals, with the aim of putting the delta rice fields back under cultivation and the total reconstruction of the Dabara network. The programme succeeded in:

(a) Giving a boost to the economy of the region by providing three months of paid work to nearly 2,500 persons, thus compensating to some extent for the loss of agricultural income resulting from the destruction caused by the cyclone;

(b) Rehabilitating the Dabara canal using labour-intensive methods under the technical supervision of a specialized firm;

(c) Restoring food security for the inhabitants of the delta region by refilling the Hellot and Rebuffat canals.

24. The humanitarian aid programme gradually added a "development" component; Team Cynthia, which operated with good results through June 1992, demonstrated the feasibility of repairing the peripheral irrigation channels under a "food-for-work" programme. Future improvements to the peripheral irrigation channels could be considered using this approach, which actively involves the beneficiaries at all stages of the rehabilitation while providing them with income. It also laid the groundwork for establishing a professional agriculture structure to manage, supervise and maintain the facilities and networks.

2. Drought in the South

25. As a result of two poor rainy seasons in succession, southern Madagascar experienced a drought from 1991 to 1993. In order to avoid serious famine, WFP distributed free food to 960,000 people living in the region. From November 1991 to April 1993, nearly 50,000 metric tons were distributed under the leadership of the emergency team composed of some 10 supervisors.

26. An improvement in weather conditions made it possible to cease free food distribution in April 1993 and to move into a transitional phase between emergency relief and development through the funding of small-scale community projects on a "food-for-work" basis.

27. An initial phase, involving 152 small-scale projects, was carried out from June to December 1993. Some 6,000 people participated, and an estimated 93,000 people benefited from the programme.

28. This initial phase helped to improve food security by rehabilitating infrastructure directly or indirectly related to the production and marketing of food products (550 hectares of rice fields put back under cultivation, 142 kilometres of rural roads repaired). It also resulted in the preparation of reports based on surveys (of population groups, of monthly food status). But the most important accomplishment was the structuring of the rural environment around community focal points of development.

29. The second phase was carried out from January through June 1994. A report on it is pending.

30. Complementing the efforts of WFP, a national organization known as "SOS Sud Solidarité" was organized to provide survival assistance in the southern region. The region was declared a disaster area in March 1992. Assistance involved such activities as organizing soup kitchens, distributing cooked food to at-risk population groups and setting up nutrition rehabilitation centres. Financial assistance for the relief efforts was provided by the European Union, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), WFP, USAID, Finland, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mauritius, Norway, La Réunion and the Seychelles.

31. As the SOS Sud operation wound up, the Office for the Integrated Development of the South took over with programmes designed to be more long-term and sustainable.

B. Report on events of 1994

32. In 1994, Madagascar was struck repeatedly by very powerful cyclones within a short space of time, causing major damage and flooding. The impact of four major cyclonic disturbances, Daisy (13-17 January), Geralda (2-4 February), Litanne (15-17 March) and Nadia (21-22 March) led to an emergency situation of exceptional gravity.

33. These cyclones affected virtually the whole of the island, but they were most severe in the province of Toamasina, especially in the village of Brickaville, which was especially hard hit. However, no estimate of the damage caused by the last two cyclones is yet available.

1. Impact of the cyclones

34. The cyclones Daisy and Geralda together left 231 people dead, 73 missing, 267 injured and 356,951 homeless. In addition, the displaced population of Antananarivo, the disaster victims in Toamasina, and the inhabitants of the flooded village of Brickaville, had to cope with water pollution and were exposed to epidemics, particularly the children. An estimated 250,000 people, including 48,000 children, were afflicted by these events. Moreover, 237,409 hectares of cultivated land were devastated, and many head of livestock were reported missing.

35. With regard to the infrastructure of the stricken areas, more than 20 major highways were damaged, cutting off the capital from the ports and from supply depots of essential goods. The railway network was severely impaired, causing communication problems and cutting off the supply of fuel to the capital. Also, the island's only oil refinery, located in Toamasina, was totally destroyed and would require four to six months to rebuild.

36. In addition to the thousands of homes destroyed, many public buildings (schools, health facilities, government offices, markets) were damaged.

37. By resolution 48/234 of 14 February 1994, the General Assembly called upon the international community to provide additional emergency aid for Madagascar.

2. Contributions from donors

38. In the first few hours after cyclone Geralda struck, Madagascar received assistance in the form of a prompt intervention by France, providing food, medicines, water and electric power. Representatives of the NGO CARE International and UNICEF visited Brickaville to assess the situation and propose plans of action.

39. CARE International took charge of the distribution of food and the recovery and rebuilding of the Brickaville area and its population. Food distribution activities in the area ended in August, once it had been established that the local population's food supply had more or less returned to normal.

40. Food requirements were met by the following donors: USAID; WFP; UNICEF; UNDP; Swiss Cooperation; the European Community; and CARE International.

41. The WFP was in charge of food distribution in the Antananarivo reception centres. The World Health Organization (WHO) helped to determine requirements for medicines and medical/surgical equipment and coordinated the work of an inter-agency committee on medicines.

42. UNICEF unblocked $50,000 to meet the immediate needs for medicines, $250,000 for follow-up work with children, and $2 million for crop rehabilitation.

43. In all, Madagascar received approximately 2,000 tons of rice, 2,500 tons of flour, and 5,000 tons of miscellaneous foodstuffs, medicines, building equipment and materials, technical assistance, and $3.5 million in cash.

44. Logistic operations were financed by the Governments of the Netherlands and Norway, and the United Kingdom, by USAID, and the Austrian branch of CARE International.

45. In April, a multi-donor mission organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and WFP which was also open to other partners, assisted the Government in assessing damage to agricultural infrastructures, crop losses and the consequences of the damage and losses.

46. A seed distribution programme began in July with the assistance of FAO.

3. Needs still unmet

47. Madagascar has realized that, being a country vulnerable to frequent cyclones, it will be necessary to:

(a) Create a national fund for the repair of cyclone damage;

(b) Set up a network for follow-up work and information on natural disasters, with sufficient equipment and supplies;

(c) Strengthen measures for soil protection and restoration;

(d) Improve the system of statistical information on available rice stocks;

(e) Carry out regular road maintenance.

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REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the views of the Board of Auditors on improvement of oversight functions within the United Nations, prepared by the Board of Auditors in accordance with the requests of the Assembly in its decision 47/454 of 23 December 1992 and section II, paragraph 8, of its resolution 48/218 A of 23 December 1993.

ANNEX

Letter dated 27 September 1994 from the Chairman of the Board of Auditors to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit to you the attached document in accordance with section II, paragraph 8, of General Assembly resolution 48/218 A of 23 December 1993. The present document represents the views of the Board of Auditors only. The views of the Panel of External Auditors, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency will be submitted at a later date, in the event that the Panel wishes to put forward additional proposals.

(Signed) John BOURN
Comptroller and Auditor General
of the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland
and Chairman
United Nations Board of Auditors

APPENDIX

Views of the Board of Auditors on improving oversight functions

1. In its decision 47/454 of 23 December 1992, the General Assembly decided "without prejudice to existing relevant resolutions, to consider the roles and coverage of the subsidiary bodies responsible for coordination, administrative questions and budgetary matters, including the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Board of Auditors, the Joint Inspection Unit and the Committee for Programme and Coordination, with a view to improving the effectiveness of their oversight and coordination mechanisms". As requested, the present paper sets out the views of the Board of Auditors.

2. The document also deals, in part, with the General Assembly's further request in section II, paragraph 8, of resolution 48/218 A, addressed both to the Panel of External Auditors and to the Board to provide their views on how oversight functions could be improved, according to current reporting procedures. The Panel of External Auditors' first paper in response to that request (A/48/876, annex) dealt principally with improvements to the internal oversight mechanisms. The present paper focuses on the external oversight mechanisms and, in particular, on the role of the Board of Auditors.

A. Role and scope of the Board of Auditors

3. The Board welcomes warmly the General Assembly's reaffirmation (most recently in its resolution 48/218 B of 29 July 1994) of the role of the Board of Auditors as an external control mechanism for oversight, monitoring and control by the General Assembly of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations. In the Board's view, a strong and independent external audit function should remain at the core of the accountability arrangements of the United Nations.

4. The Board considers that its role and function should continue in essence as now. However, the Board is aware of the need to improve continuously upon the quality of the external audit service provided to the United Nations in line with developments in the auditing profession. It has worked closely with its colleagues on the Panel of External Auditors to ensure that it continues to apply the best professional practice.

5. The Board has reviewed carefully the scope of its mandate as set out in article XII of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations and the annex setting out additional terms of reference governing the audit of the United Nations. The dual mandate, first, to express an opinion on the financial statements and, second, to make observations with respect to the efficiency of the financial procedures, the accounting system, the internal financial controls and, in general, the administration and management of the Organization is fully consistent with the standards set out by the International Organization of Supreme Auditing Institutions (INTOSAI). It is also very similar to the mandate held by the supreme audit institutions of many Member States.

6. In practice the Board has been able to work within this mandate and has encountered few difficulties in pursuing its inquiries or in fulfilling its responsibilities. The Board therefore considers that this basic mandate should remain unchanged.

B. Structure and composition of the Board of Auditors

7. The advantages of the current Board structure are first that the members carrying out the audit are wholly independent of the United Nations Secretariat; secondly, the Member States are involved directly in carrying out the external audit; and third, by bringing together a number of Member States, the Board ensures wide coverage and a sharing of the burden.

8. The current Board of three members is large enough to ensure that the burden of carrying out the audit is shared yet small enough to ensure that there is genuine cooperation and coordination on technical and professional matters. This ensures consistency of approach and a practical sharing of ideas and experience at the working level. The Board therefore believes that current arrangements should be retained.

9. In a separate request, the General Assembly, in its resolution 48/216 D of 23 December 1993, invited the Board, in consultation with the Secretary-General, to provide its views on extending the term of office for members from four to six years. The Board has submitted its views separately (A/49/368) recommending the adoption of a six-year term of appointment.

C. Measures to improve the quality of external audit work

10. The Board has worked to improve the quality of the service it provides to the United Nations through the efforts of its individual members, such as programmes of staff training, and collectively through the involvement of its members in the work of INTOSAI. Over the last two years the Panel of External Auditors has reviewed its auditing standards to ensure they conform to INTOSAI standards and best professional practice. Also, the Board has recently revised its own audit manual, ensuring that all staff involved in the work apply current best practice in their audits of the United Nations environment.

11. The Board has gradually expanded its coverage of management issues. In the recent past, it has developed the horizontal audit approach to cover comprehensively selected audit areas such as expendable and non-expendable property, internal audit function and procurement of goods and services, in all the organizations audited. In its resolution 47/211 of 23 December 1992, the General Assembly welcomed the identification by the Board of Auditors of areas of horizontal study across the organizations audited, and endorsed the intention of the Board to continue that practice in future audits.

D. Audit resources

12. In recent debates a number of Member States have expressed concern about the capacity of Board members to provide sufficient numbers of professionally qualified staff to carry out the full range of audit activities required by the United Nations. The Board is glad to provide full reassurance on that point. The members of the Board have always been able to provide the United Nations with the necessary staff either from their own resources or by engaging the services of other auditors as provided for by regulation 12.9 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations. Under these provisions, the Board therefore has access to fully qualified staff whenever they are required. But given the increasing numbers of requests from the General Assembly, this cannot be done without some additional cost.

13. The Board is therefore concerned about the adequacy of the financial provision made for its work. In a sense the members of the Board are contractors in that they provide the audit service for a fixed fee. While the Board is willing to provide the United Nations with additional audit services as and when so requested by the General Assembly under financial regulation 12.7, the increasing numbers of requests from the Assembly for specific examinations need to be balanced by a recognition of the need by the Assembly to authorize additional resources to the Board to carry out such work.

14. The Board considers that its budget should be put on at least the same basis as that of the Office of Internal Oversight Services as set out in General Assembly resolution 48/218 B. This would also serve to re-enforce the independence of the Board.

E. Cases of fraud or presumptive fraud

15. It is the responsibility of management to organize its internal check in a manner that enables it to uncover a fraud promptly as and when it occurs and to identify any case of potential fraud, and to take the follow-up action, including preventive steps.

16. The Board is required, under paragraph 6 (c) (1) of the annex to the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, to bring to the notice of the General Assembly cases of fraud or presumptive fraud. External audit can only apply a test check of transactions to the extent necessary to form an opinion on the financial statements. It cannot by its very nature detect all cases of fraud. It should therefore be made aware of all cases known to management, to permit a proper evaluation and reporting and the drawing of general lessons from particular cases. The Board has developed a pro forma to obtain the pertinent details of a case, including disciplinary action and other action to remedy weaknesses revealed in the system. Often, there has been delay in obtaining the details of the cases and consequently it has not been possible for the Board to review the adequacy of the action taken covering all the cases reported.

17. Cognizant of the concern of the General Assembly regarding fraudulent practices, culminating in the establishment of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts established pursuant to General Assembly resolution

48/218 A, which recently submitted its report to the Assembly (A/49/418), the Board intends to intensify its scrutiny of the cases of fraud or presumptive fraud. For this purpose, the organizations concerned should report to the Board the details of such cases at six monthly intervals and should submit a consolidated list along with the financial statements. This should also apply to cases of write-off of losses of cash, stores and other assets.

F. Implementation of the Board's recommendations

18. The effectiveness of the external audit depends not only on the scope of the audit and the nature of the reporting of its results but also on the action taken by the administration in response to the findings and recommendations of the Board. Aware of the need to eliminate waste and injudicious expenditure and to improve the programme performance, the Board has over time reoriented its audit methodologies and reporting practices to ascertain and highlight the scope for economy and to indicate how the efficiency and effectiveness of various programmes and projects could be improved. This reorientation has brought sharper focus to the reports of the Board to the General Assembly for the biennium 1992-1993. The Board will further refine the auditing and reporting practices.

19. In the past, it has been the experience of the Board that despite its findings and recommendations having been developed after a continuous dialogue with the management, and later on upheld by the General Assembly, remedial action has not been effective enough. As a result, successive reports of the Board have often covered the same ground. It has also not been possible for the Board to examine fully the remedial action taken or proposed to be taken, as it was not reported to the Board in time.

20. In resolution 48/216 B of 23 December 1993, the General Assembly reiterated its request to the organizations concerned to report on the measures taken or proposed to be taken in response to the recommendations of the Board, including timetables for their implementation, at the same time as the recommendations of the Board are submitted. This would enable the Board to review not only the adequacy but also the efficacy of the action taken in the course of the audit during the next biennium and to point out the deficiencies for timely correction. The follow-up of the recommendations is thus an area that needs better attention in the future.

21. The remedial action taken by the administrations should also include invoking the provisions of Financial Rule 114.1 on personnel responsibility, wherever necessary, in order to act as an effective deterrent against the persistent violations of the Financial Rules and relevant administrative instructions.

22. With the introduction of a system of advance reporting on the remedial action and the time available for the Board to review it, it should be possible for the Board to report more clearly on the inadequacies and deficiencies that might persist. The Board believes that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions also develop its role, in line with its mandate, to hold the senior managers directly accountable for such inadequacies and deficiencies

in the implementation of the recommendations, on the basis of the follow-up reports of the Board.

G. Conclusion

23. The Board would be happy to elaborate on these views if Member States would find it helpful.

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REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

1. Page 4, paragraph 9, third and fourth lines

   For from four to six years read to four or six years

2. Page 6, paragraph 22

   The last sentence should read

   The Board believes that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions might also develop its role, in line with its mandate, to hold the senior managers directly accountable for such inadequacies and deficiencies in the implementation of the recommendations, on the basis of the follow-up reports of the Board.

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ENGLISH
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Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 80

QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION

Letter dated 3 October 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the Declaration of Santiago on Media Development and Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Plan of Action adopted at the Seminar held by the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Santiago, Chile, from 2 to 6 May 1994.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 80.

(Signed) Juan SOMAVIA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX I

[Original: English and Spanish]

Declaration of Santiago on Media Development and Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean

We the participants in the United Nations/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization/United Nations Development Programme Seminar on Media Development and Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago, Chile, from 2 to 6 May 1994,

Recalling article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a/ which states that "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media, and regardless of frontiers",

Recalling the American Convention on Human Rights (Pacto de San José de Costa Rica),

Recalling General Assembly resolution 59 (I) of 14 December 1946, stating that freedom of information is a fundamental human right, and General Assembly resolution 46/76 A of 11 December 1990 on information in the service of humanity,

Recalling resolution 104, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-fifth session, in 1989, in which the main focus is the promotion of "the free flow of ideas by word and image at international as well as national levels",

Recalling resolution 4.3 adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its twenty-sixth session, in 1991, which recognizes that a free, pluralistic and independent press is an essential component of any democratic society and which endorses the Declaration adopted by the participants at the United Nations/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Seminar on Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press, held in Windhoek, Namibia, from 29 April to 3 May 1994, b/

Recalling General Assembly resolution 48/133 of 20 December 1993, on the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, 1993,

Recalling the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, c/

Stressing the growing role of the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, whose Intergovernmental Council decided, at its February 1992 session, to give priority to projects which seek to reinforce independent and pluralistic media,

Noting with appreciation the statement made by the representative of the Department of Public Information of the United Nations, the statement made by the Assistant Director-General for Communication, Information and Informatics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the statement made by the representative of the United Nations Development Programme, at the opening of the Seminar,

Noting with satisfaction that the holding of the Seminar coincided with the first observance of World Press Freedom Day, established by General Assembly decision of 20 December 1993, d/

Noting with appreciation the message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, delivered on his behalf by the representative of the Department of Public Information, the message on the occasion of the Day by the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization delivered on his behalf by the Assistant Director-General for Communication, Information and Informatics, statement made by the President of the Republic of Chile and the statement made by the Mayor of the City of Santiago at the dedication ceremony of the International Square of Freedom of the Press, in Santiago, on 3 May 1994, World Press Freedom Day,

Expressing our gratitude to the Government and people of Chile for their kind hospitality, which facilitated the success of the Seminar,

Expressing our gratitude to the Mayor and people of Santiago for dedicating on 3 May 1994, World Press Freedom Day, a square, in Santiago, to press freedom,

Expressing our since appreciation to the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Development Programme for organizing the Seminar,

Expressing also our sincere appreciation to all the intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental bodies and organizations which contributed to the effort of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Development Programme to organize the Seminar,

Aware that peace, development and democracy are intimately interlinked, and recognizing that the Latin American and Caribbean media, amongst the most dynamic in the world, have played a major role in favour of peace, democracy and world economic and social development,

Express our full support for, and total commitment to, the fundamental principles of the Declaration of Windhoek, and acknowledge its importance as a milestone in the struggle for free, independent and pluralistic print and broadcast media in all regions of the world.

Regarding the specific situation prevailing in Latin America and the Caribbean, where there exist highly developed print and electronic media of which some are known world wide, and small and community media, including those recently established, with very limited means, in particular in rural and marginalized urban areas,

We declare that:

1. Freedom of expression is the cornerstone of our democracies. Democracy is a prerequisite for peace and development within and between our countries. Freedom of the press is a key and indivisible part of the freedom of expression.

2. All States of the region must be encouraged to provide constitutional guaranties for freedom of expression, freedom of the press for all forms of media, freedom of association and freedom for media trade unions.

3. Respect for pluralism, cultural, language and gender diversity should be a fundamental factor in our democratic societies and should be reflected through all the media.

4. We strongly condemn the fact that journalists, publishers and broadcasters are still victims of repression, threats, aggression, murder, arrest, detention and abduction for which the criminals, in many cases, enjoy impunity. They are also restricted by economic and political pressures such as censorship; restrictions on newsprint and other professional equipment and material; licensing systems and abusive controls which limit the opportunity to publish or broadcast; travel or visa denials and restrictions which prevent the free movement of journalists; limitations on the free flow of news and information; and restrictions on the circulation of periodicals within countries and across national borders.

5. Our aim is to promote the greatest possible number of newspapers, magazines, videos, radio and television stations reflecting the widest possible range of opinion in the community.

6. State authorities should make available in a timely and reasonable manner the information generated by the public sector.

7. No journalist should be forced to reveal his or her sources of information.

8. In accordance with the fundamental rights of expression and association as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a/ the access to and the practice of journalism must be free, and not limited by any means.

9. There is an urgent need to increase training and educational programmes for journalists and other media practitioners with a view to improving their professional standards.

10. We call on the General Assembly of the United Nations to create a "World Press Freedom Prize", to be awarded annually, to honour individuals, organizations or institutions that have contributed significantly to the advancement of freedom of information, irrespective of the medium, print or electronic. The jury shall be appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and shall be composed of distinguished personalities

recognized and respected for their dedication to the cause of freedom of the press and for their internationally recognized ethical standing.

Notes

a/ Resolution 217 A (III).

b/ A/SPC/47/4.

c/ Resolution 34/180, annex.

d/ Decision 48/432.

ANNEX II

Plan of Action

The Plan of Action adopted by the Seminar proposes the following measures:

1. Promotion of community media in rural, indigenous and marginal urban areas

(a) Taking into account the increasing importance of community media in the democratic process in the region, to request the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), with the assistance of professional organizations and research institutions, to survey the current situation of community media concerning legislation, frequencies, power limitations and advertising restrictions, with a view to making recommendations for the consideration of the Governments concerned.

(b) To request the International Programme for the Development of Communication of UNESCO (IPDC) and donor agencies to support projects for the creation of new community media, both print and broadcast, and projects aimed at strengthening existing community media in accordance with international norms, especially those media serving women, youth, indigenous populations and minorities.

(c) To call upon professional organizations and the regional and national representatives of international organizations involved in community development issues, to encourage community media to exchange information among themselves and with other media. In so doing, they will contribute to the development of communication networks.

2. Training

(a) To promote and support the training of journalists, broadcasters and other media professionals, especially those working in rural and marginal urban areas. To this end the curricula should include the legal, technological, managerial, marketing, advertising, gender and cultural aspects of the media.

(b) To recommend to media organizations in the region (journalists, broadcasters and publishers), to hold a meeting with a view to harmonizing their training and educational programmes and working methods, and to adapting them to new technologies, in collaboration if necessary with UNESCO.

(c) To encourage the reading of both community and national newspapers in school as learning tools, in order to enable children to understand the value of the free press and to learn to exercise their judgement. Further, to include in the curriculum of primary education the issue of freedom of the press.

(d) To ask UNESCO to convene, in coordination with the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations agencies, seminars to analyse the status and the participation of women in the media.

3. Free press and the safety of journalists

(a) To extend the number of monitoring centres in the Latin American and the Caribbean region and to link them with the existing International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX) Action Alert Network, using joint resources of professional national and international organizations with assistance from UNESCO.

(b) In addition to monitoring aggression against journalists, to request IFEX to investigate the possibility of including in the monitoring system serious cases of visa rejection and limited movement of journalists and restrictions on the free flow of information in the region, among other press freedom issues.

(c) To request UNESCO to participate, together with professional organizations, in promoting at different levels of society awareness of the right of journalists to exercise their profession safely.

4. Equipment and technology

(a) To request UNESCO and the International Telecommunication Union, together with professional organizations, to advise small media, especially in rural and marginal urban areas, on available technology optimal for their needs.

(b) To ask the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), the Intergovernmental Informatics Programme and the Programme of General Information, all three of UNESCO, to support the creation of networks, documentation centres and databases in the Latin American and Caribbean countries in order for journalists and broadcasters to have access to international information, as well as manuals, texts, compact discs (CD ROM) and other kinds of training material.

5. Research

(a) To encourage media organizations, universities, research institutions and governmental and intergovernmental agencies to conduct research on the impact of communication technology development on indigenous communities, with a view to maintaining their cultural identity.

(b) To recommend that UNESCO, in cooperation with professional organizations, conduct a comparative study of legislation affecting media.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 148
THE SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES OF CROATIA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 4 October 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the letter that I have today forwarded to the President of the Security Council (see annex).

I kindly request your assistance in circulating the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 148, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 4 October 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In accordance with instructions from my Government, I must express the deep indignation of the Republic of Croatia with regard to the report of the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia on their Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), distributed by the Secretary-General in his letter of 3 October 1994 (S/1994/1124).

Without entering into a debate on whether there is de facto sufficient ground to declare that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is meeting its commitment to close its border with the areas of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina under the control of the Bosnian Serb forces based on a report of only 93 members of the "Mission", the Republic of Croatia is shocked by paragraph 3 of the annex to document S/1994/1124. The Co-Chairmen submit that "... As far as transit traffic to the Republic of Croatia is concerned, agreements have been made covering customs documentation and the sealing of load-carrying vehicles to reduce the obvious risk of a diversion of supplies to the Bosnian Serbs".

There is no doubt that the quoted part of the report does not relate to humanitarian supplies distributed by international humanitarian organizations or agencies. Had that been the case, those shipments would not have been a subject of interest to the Mission, since the Belgrade authorities never indicated their willingness to deprive their Bosnian and Croatian proxies of food and medical supplies. More important, the Mission is to monitor supplies other than humanitarian supplies going to the Bosnian Serbs, and in particular strategic goods.

In the view of my Government, this action represents a clear and blatant violation of Security Council resolution 820 (1993) of 17 April 1993 in which the Council decided that "import to, export from and transshipment through the United Nations Protected Areas in the Republic of Croatia and those areas in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina under the control of Bosnian Serb forces, with exception of essential humanitarian supplies, including medical supplies and foodstuffs distributed by international humanitarian agencies, shall be permitted only with proper authorization from the Government of the Republic of Croatia or the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, respectively".

The shipments that the Mission is monitoring, and that are, according to the report, destined "as transit traffic to the Republic of Croatia", do not have the required authorization of the Croatian Government to be imported into the territory of the Republic of Croatia. Further, the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina has informed us that it has not issued proper authorization for their transshipment through their territory "controlled by Bosnian Serb forces".

The Government of the Republic of Croatia is outraged by the fact that the Mission of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia, acting under the mandate given by the Security Council, is not only tacitly allowing the constant flow of supplies to Belgrade proxies in the occupied territories of the Republic of Croatia, but is "making agreements" to facilitate violation of Council resolutions. Such action is seriously jeopardizing the sovereignty of the Republic of Croatia over its own territory, and my Government cannot tolerate it.

This biased and illegal action of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia does not contribute to the overall peace process and the stability in the region. Further, this action will not be helpful to the Croatian Parliament when it debates the future of the United Nations presence on Croatian territory within 100 days. Our deliberations shall be influenced by the actions of the international community, and in particular the Contact Group, with regard to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Croatia, and the restoration of the legitimate authority over its entire territory.

Croatia demands that the Security Council act immediately in respect of the obvious violation of resolution 820 (1993) by the monitor Mission of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia, consistent with its previous decisions.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Permanent Representative

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A/49/474
5 October 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 152

OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Letter dated 3 October 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you in connection with agenda item 152 of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly: "Observer status for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the General Assembly".

I am pleased to inform you that, upon instructions of my Government, and with the support of the Red Cross of Yugoslavia, we fully support the granting of observer status to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the General Assembly.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 152.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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UNITED NATIONS **A**

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Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 35

LAW OF THE SEA

Letter dated 5 October 1994 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a document entitled "Position of the Russian Federation regarding the legal regime of the Caspian Sea" (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and of its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 35.

(Signed) S. LAVROV

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/...

ANNEX

Position of the Russian Federation regarding the legal regime of the Caspian Sea

The Caspian Sea lacks a natural link to the world's oceans and seas and is thus a land-locked body of water. The norms of international maritime law, particularly those pertaining to the territorial sea, the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf, are not applicable to it. There is thus no basis for unilateral claims relating to the establishment of zones of this type in the Caspian or for the introduction of elements of their regimes.

The Caspian Sea and its resources are of vital importance to all the States bordering on it. For this reason, all utilization of the Caspian Sea, in particular the development of the mineral resources of the Caspian seabed and the rational use of its living resources, including a stock of fish of the sturgeon family which is unique in its size and species composition, must be the subject of concerted action on the part of all States bordering the Caspian if the flora and fauna of this unique body of water are not to be harmed. Its ecosystem is highly vulnerable, and the chief task at hand is to prevent a regional environmental disaster.

This task can only be addressed through strict respect for the legal regime of the Caspian Sea and the prevention of any unilateral action, given that the Caspian Sea, by virtue of its legal nature, is subject to joint utilization; any questions relating to activities, including the exploitation of its resources, must be decided jointly by all the countries bordering its coast. National claims made by any Caspian Sea State in connection with the Sea and its resources inevitably affect the rights and interests of the other Caspian States and cannot be considered legitimate.

The legal regime of the Caspian Sea provided for in the Soviet-Iranian agreements of 26 February 1921 and 25 March 1940 has not as yet undergone any change. This regime provides for free navigation in the Caspian Sea by vessels flying the flag of its coastal States, national regimes for vessels of other coastal States in their home ports and unimpeded fishing in its waters, with the exception of the 10-mile coastal zone, in which fishing is reserved for vessels of the corresponding coastal State.

In accordance with the principles and norms of international law, Russia and the other coastal States - former republics of the USSR and Iran - are bound by the provisions of the 1921 and 1940 agreements. The legal regime of the Caspian Sea set out in these agreements needs to be updated, taking into account changing circumstances, including those resulting from the emergence of new coastal States. However, this can only be done through the conclusion of new agreements among all the Caspian Sea States, bearing in mind the importance of preserving the ecosystem of this land-locked body of water.

The Russian side has consistently made efforts in this direction. In particular, it drew up and submitted for the consideration of all Caspian Sea States a draft agreement on the preservation and utilization of the living

resources of the Caspian Sea. Generally speaking, this agreement has been endorsed by all the Caspian Sea States but, owing to various delays, it has yet to be signed by them.

The prompt conclusion of an agreement on regional cooperation in the Caspian Sea is also of great significance. The draft of such an agreement, prepared by the Iranian side with the participation of other coastal States, provides for the establishment of a mechanism for regional cooperation within whose framework all questions relating to the use of the Caspian Sea and its resources might be effectively settled. However, the talks on the final conclusion of this draft are being artificially prolonged.

It is unfortunate that the Russian side's efforts to speed up the conclusion of these two important agreements, which are consistent with the interests of all countries bordering the Caspian Sea, are constantly being met with inaction, which lends itself to no other interpretation than an attempt to avoid the establishment of a new international legal regime for the Caspian Sea. At the same time, some Caspian Sea States are contemplating unilateral action and, in disregard of the principles and norms of international law, are seeking to obtain unilateral advantages, to the detriment of the rights and interests of other Caspian Sea States.

Unilateral action in respect of the Caspian Sea is unlawful and will not be recognized by the Russian Federation, which reserves the right to take such measures as it deems necessary and whenever it deems appropriate, to restore the legal order and overcome the consequences of unilateral actions. Full responsibility for these events, including major material damage, rests with those who undertake unilateral action and thereby display their disregard for the legal nature of the Caspian Sea and for their obligations under international agreements.

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Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 62 (b)

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Relationship between disarmament and development

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations' commitment to promoting disarmament and development predates the onset of the cold war and has outlived it. A specific mandate on the relationship between disarmament and development was entrusted to the United Nations by the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, held in 1987. The 150 States participating in the Conference adopted, by consensus, an action programme aimed at fostering an interrelated perspective on disarmament, development and security. 1/

2. The action programme arrived at two sets of conclusions: those addressed to the participating States themselves and those requesting follow-up action by the Secretary-General. In pursuance of paragraph 35 (ix) of the action programme, and subsequent resolutions (resolutions 42/45, 43/75 B, 44/116 L, 45/58 A and 46/36 C), the Secretary-General has submitted five successive reports to the General Assembly beginning in 1989. The first three of these reports (A/44/449, A/45/592 and A/46/527) described the activities undertaken by the Secretariat. The last two reports (A/47/452 and A/48/400) pointed to the changing international context in which the action programme would have to be carried out. The present sixth report, submitted in response to resolution 48/75 A of 16 December 1993, provides an overview of the implementation of the mandate given to the Secretary-General and, after drawing attention to the most current issues, requests review for further guidance.

II. OVERVIEW

3. Since the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, held in 1987, the Secretary-General has carried out his responsibilities in two phases.

4. During the period 1987-1990, the emphasis was on activities by the Secretariat in two broad areas: monitoring trends in military spending and promoting collective knowledge of non-military threats to international peace and security. During the period 1991-1993, greater attention was devoted to facilitating an exchange of national experience in conversion from military to civilian fields. This was also a period of expanding contacts with national and international bodies so that the United Nations could act as a catalyst by providing information, guidance and expertise.

5. During the first phase, which coincided with the ending of the cold war, the possibility of a "peace dividend" in the event of substantive progress in the field of disarmament provided a strong political incentive for a conceptual linkage between disarmament and development. Promotion of international security at lower levels of military spending became a major theme in the publications, media events and training programmes organized by the Department of Disarmament Affairs. Through intra-Secretariat and inter-agency cooperation, the Secretariat closely followed trends in global military spending. Data and statistics were compiled and analysed for use in statements by the Secretary-General and other senior officials, which contrasted the high levels of arms spending with the relatively modest resources required to meet global

needs like health, education and ecological security. A thematic political message emphasized an underlying linkage between disarmament and development, namely, that the world was over-armed and underdeveloped. Both over-armament and underdevelopment were presented as constituting threats to international peace and security.

6. During the second phase, after the end of the cold war, downward trends in global military spending were accompanied by a process of economic adjustment. A slowing down of the arms race had the effect of releasing technical skills, personnel, research and development capacities, plants and factories previously devoted to the military sector rather than making available immediately disposable financial resources. In some instances, agreements on banning specific categories of weapons led to urgent problems of finding ecologically safe and often costly methods of weapons disposal. In other instances, the technological gap between the civilian and military sectors made it difficult to find alternative employment for skilled personnel who had been serving in the military sector. Through a series of high-level international conferences, the Secretariat devoted much attention to promoting an exchange of national experience in economic adjustments during that phase.

7. The world is likely to see a continuing trend towards the redundancy of resources hitherto devoted to military ends. Deep cuts in the military spending of major military Powers have already occurred. Entire categories of weapons have been eliminated in the strategic category. Other weapons of mass destruction have been banned through negotiated agreements such as the chemical weapons convention. The very rationale for further arms accumulation is being called into question. Already there is mounting evidence that in resolving present day intra-State or inter-State conflicts, military strength is becoming less relevant.

8. However, the redeployment, redirection or conversion of resources into non-military uses has proved more difficult than was previously thought. National experiences have varied notably because of differences in the relative technological sophistication of their civilian and military sectors, pent-up demand for civilian goods and their general economic health. It is, none the less, broadly recognized that the transition necessitated by the end of the cold war will be easier if the global economy is in robust health. This process can be assisted directly through facilitating economic adjustments within States and indirectly through stimulating faster progress on global developmental issues such as commodity prices, trade, aid and debt relief.

9. As two vital areas of United Nations concern, disarmament and development are both entering a new period. Disarmament is being interpreted in terms broader than those related to agreements for arms reduction among the major military Powers. There is now a growing emphasis on restraint in military production and the discouragement of the use of military force world wide. Collective efforts are afoot for the greater employment of science and technology in peace-building.

10. Development, too, is increasingly understood as requiring more than demands by the South on the North. Already a political consensus is emerging that a global partnership for development rests essentially upon an expansion of economic opportunities, greater participation, enlarged choices and fuller utilization of people's potential everywhere. Concessional terms for the most seriously affected States no more detract politically from a global view of development than do affirmative action and social security from national well-being.

III. CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

11. Since the adoption of the action programme in 1987, a great deal has been done both by Member States and by the United Nations Secretariat towards the implementation of the programme. For its part, the Secretariat has carried out its mandate as comprehensively as possible despite the increasingly limited resources available to it. Nevertheless, much remains to be done in that area. In the light of the changed international situation and the lessons learned through national attempts at dealing with military and economic adjustments in the post-cold-war era, a critical review of the whole issue is needed before further action in the field can be promoted. Such a review would provide new directives and guidelines for further activities on the part of the Secretariat in this important area, which would reflect the new realities in international relations. The World Summit for Social Development in 1995 could provide an opportunity for such a review. Member States might also decide on other procedures for carrying it out. Submission of further reports on the subject by the Secretary-General will, therefore, depend on a relevant evaluation of the programme by Member States and the conclusions they reach in that respect, including any specific requests they may wish to address to the Secretary-General.

Notes

1/ See Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, New York, 24 August-11 September 1987 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.IX.8).

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Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 89 (d)

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa: implementation of General Assembly resolution 48/191 and possible requirements for future work

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly established an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, with a view to finalizing such a convention by June 1994.

2. In resolution 48/191 of 21 December 1993, the General Assembly urged the Committee to complete the negotiations successfully by June 1994. The Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to report to it, at its forty-ninth session, on the implementation of the resolution.

3. At the end of its fifth session, on 17 June 1994, and having fulfilled its mandate to adopt a convention, the Committee adopted resolution 5/2 on interim arrangements to apply during the period beginning with the adoption of the Convention and ending with the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In the same resolution, the Committee requested the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session proposals for further sessions of the Committee and to enable the ad hoc secretariat established pursuant to resolution 47/188 to continue its activities on an

interim basis until the permanent secretariat of the Convention was designated by the Conference of the Parties and began operating.

4. The present report responds to the requests of the General Assembly and of the Committee. It supplements the information already provided to the Assembly in the report of the Secretary-General under the corresponding agenda item at the forty-eighth session (A/48/226).

II. FUTURE WORK

A. General considerations

5. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, is the first legally binding multilateral agreement adopted as a follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992. It is consistent with the relevant chapters of Agenda 21. 1/ The Convention addresses a major environmental problem that has confronted the international community for decades and requires urgent action. The need for urgent action, particularly in the region most affected by desertification, was recognized by Committee members through the adoption of the resolution on urgent action for Africa.

6. The Convention represents a departure from past efforts by the international community to address the problem of desertification. It is an innovative document in many respects, dealing not only with what needs to be done but also with how it is to be done. Its implementation is centred on the elaboration of action programmes at the national, subregional and regional levels through a consultative and participatory process. It reflects a new approach which emphasizes:

(a) A "bottom-up" philosophy involving the participation of local populations and non-governmental organizations in the preparation and implementation of action programmes;

(b) A long-term and iterative framework which fully integrates the physical and biological dimensions with the social and economic realities, making it possible to adapt action programmes according to experience and to advances in scientific research;

(c) The redirection of scientific and technological efforts in a demand-driven approach, emphasizing the utility of scientific knowledge to local populations;

(d) The integration of action programmes to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in national policies for sustainable development;

(e) The adoption of specific criteria and benchmarks to measure progress and the obligations to report on and review regularly implementation;

(f) The establishment of a conference of the parties to oversee the implementation of the Convention in the light of experience gained and of scientific research;

(g) The establishment of a committee on science and technology, which can draw on ad hoc panels of experts from a roster of scientists nominated by Governments and which will oversee a network of institutions collecting and analysing relevant data, sharing information and experiences and promoting technology;

(h) The establishment of a financial mechanism to promote actions leading to the mobilization and channelling of substantial financial resources with emphasis on multiple-source financing;

(i) Consultative processes leading to partnership agreements bringing together affected countries and the developed and other countries, as well as international organizations, to support the preparation and implementation of action programmes.

7. The concept of partnership agreements embodied in the regional implementation annex for Africa is of particular relevance because it serves to emphasize the need for close cooperation among the various actors of the international community, which is prescribed by the convention and a key to its success. The implementation phase will require an unprecedented degree of coordination not only between affected countries and other parties supporting action programmes in the framework of partnership agreements, but also among the various members of the latter group.

B. Preparations for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties and provisional implementation of the resolution on urgent measures for Africa

8. The Convention will enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties must be held not later than one year after the date of entry into force of the Convention. While it is risky to make projections and to compare conventions dealing with different subject-matters, such a comparison may provide a broad indication of what may be expected in terms of timetable. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which also required 50 ratifications, entered into force on 21 March 1994, 21 months after its opening for signature in June 1992, and the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be held in March/April 1995, nearly three years after its opening for signature. The Convention on Biological Diversity, which required only 30 ratifications, entered into force on 29 December 1993, 17 months after its opening for signature, and the first meeting of the Conference on the Parties is due to be held in November 1994, two and one-half years after its opening for signature. Should these precedents hold true in the present case, this would suggest that the Convention might enter into force in the course of 1996 and that the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties might take place in the first half of 1997.

9. A considerable amount of work will need to be carried out during the interim period leading to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties with a view to ensuring its smooth functioning as well as the prompt implementation of the various operative provisions of the Convention. Preparatory work can be divided into two main areas: (a) institutional and substantive issues requiring a decision at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and (b) issues relating to the implementation of the resolution on urgent action for Africa and other substantive matters which may arise at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

10. Following the organization of its work, the Committee's first issue to be taken up at the January 1995 session will be the development and adoption of a work programme for the duration of the interim period. While it is desirable to adopt a specific timetable to enable adequate planning by Governments and to ensure provision of the required support, the work programme will have to be flexible enough to take into account uncertainties with respect to the duration of the interim period. Further preparatory work should address, as a matter of priority, institutional matters that require a decision by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting and are essential to its functioning. These include the drafting of rules of procedure and financial rules, the election of a Bureau, the preparation of a programme of activities and a budget, including those of subsidiary bodies, as well as the designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning.

11. Preparatory work will also be required with respect to several matters of substance which, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, must be considered at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties. These include the identification of an organization to house the global mechanism for the mobilization and channelling of financial resources and arrangements with the organization identified for its administrative operations, as well as deciding on the terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology.

12. In addition, it might be necessary for the Committee to examine, during the interim period, other substantive issues that may arise at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties. These include such matters as a procedure to exchange information on measures taken in implementation of the Convention, including the form and intervals for transmitting such information, and facilitating assistance to affected developing countries in communicating information; with respect to scientific and technical cooperation, consideration of how best to obtain any required scientific advice during the interim period, including the possible drawing up of a roster of experts and establishment of ad hoc panels, as well as initiating work on the identification of entities to become part of a network of institutions; and consideration of procedures and mechanisms for the solution of questions that may arise with regard to the implementation of the Convention. Other possible areas of work during the interim period include the initiation of measures with respect to capacity-building and activities relating to the promotion of ratification and public awareness.

13. Another important area of Committee activity during the interim period will be to keep under review the implementation of the resolution on urgent action for Africa, including the preparation of action programmes and the establishment

of partnership arrangements, as well as taking decisions and making recommendations on any action required, consistent with the resolution, to ensure its effective implementation. This will involve the review of actions taken with respect to the preparation of action programmes, of the coordinating process among the various actors leading to the conclusion of partnership agreements, and of activities of the interim secretariat aimed at facilitating the implementation of the resolution.

C. Arrangements for work during the interim period

Meetings of the Committee

14. The main tasks of the Committee during the interim period are outlined above. As can be seen, a large amount of work is required. The optimal number of Committee meetings in the interim period depends on such factors as the pace of work, the capacity of Governments to participate in the light of competing demands on officials and the time needed between meetings for consultations and for the interim secretariat to carry out the background work and prepare the needed documentation. In this connection, the General Assembly will have to consider whether to authorize the Committee to decide itself on its schedule of meetings or to decide by resolution on a detailed schedule setting out the number of meetings and their duration and venue. While the former approach has the advantage of providing the desirable flexibility, enabling the Committee to adjust its programme according to progress made, the second provides the predictability required for planning and budgeting purposes.

15. With these considerations in mind and in view of the significant amount of work to be carried out, the General Assembly may wish to combine these two approaches. For example, it could adopt a schedule with details of one meeting in 1995 in addition to the January meeting already approved, and approve in principle two meetings in 1996 and one in 1997, leaving the Committee to agree on their timing, duration and venue.

Secretariat support

16. Article 35 of the Convention and Committee resolution 5/2 on interim arrangements provide indications regarding arrangements during the interim period. Both documents prescribe that measures be taken to ensure that the ad hoc secretariat established by General Assembly resolution 47/188 is able to continue its activities on an interim basis until the permanent secretariat of the convention is designated by the Conference of the Parties and begins operating. This would provide the desirable continuity in supporting the work of the Committee.

17. The Committee secretariat, in collaboration with United Nations departments, programmes and specialized agencies, has provided substantive support to the deliberations of the Committee, facilitated participation in its sessions by developing countries and assisted, on request and subject to the availability of funds, affected countries in their preparatory work leading to the implementation of the Convention. It has also managed the extrabudgetary

funds set up by General Assembly resolution 47/188 under the authority of the Secretary-General.

18. These functions will evolve but will continue to be required during the interim period, as the Secretariat will be responsible for supporting the sessions of the committee and facilitating the implementation of the resolution on urgent measures for Africa in accordance with article 25 of the convention and paragraph 14 of the resolution. The workload is likely to increase as the Committee makes decisions on activities relating to the implementation of the Convention, some of which may require support by the secretariat. Other tasks of the secretariat will include the coordination of its actions with those of other United Nations agencies and international organizations, including the secretariats of other conventions, and activities to promote ratification of the Convention and raise public awareness, as well as increased understanding of the contents of the Convention.

19. While some adjustments are still required, the secretariat currently has, to a large extent, the human resources required to carry out its functions during the interim period. However, apart from several positions funded by the regular budget of the United Nations, the continued availability of staff members depends on the availability of financial resources from voluntary contributions and on the continuation of a number of arrangements with Governments.

20. Consistent with Committee resolution 5/2 on interim arrangements, the Secretary-General will, in due course, make detailed proposals regarding secretariat arrangements and their funding, covering the period up to and including the first session of the Conference of the Parties and taking into account the anticipated workload.

Extrabudgetary funding

21. In its resolution 5/2 the Committee also appeals to Governments to make voluntary contributions to the extrabudgetary funds established under General Assembly resolution 47/188 in order to support the interim arrangements and to ensure the full and effective participation of developing countries, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries, in all the sessions of the Committee, as well as the adequate representation of non-governmental organizations from developing countries. The replenishment of these funds will continue to be critical to the performance of secretariat functions and to the proper functioning of the Committee, the exact amount of funding required being dependent on the work programme to be drawn up by the Committee.

Notes

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.